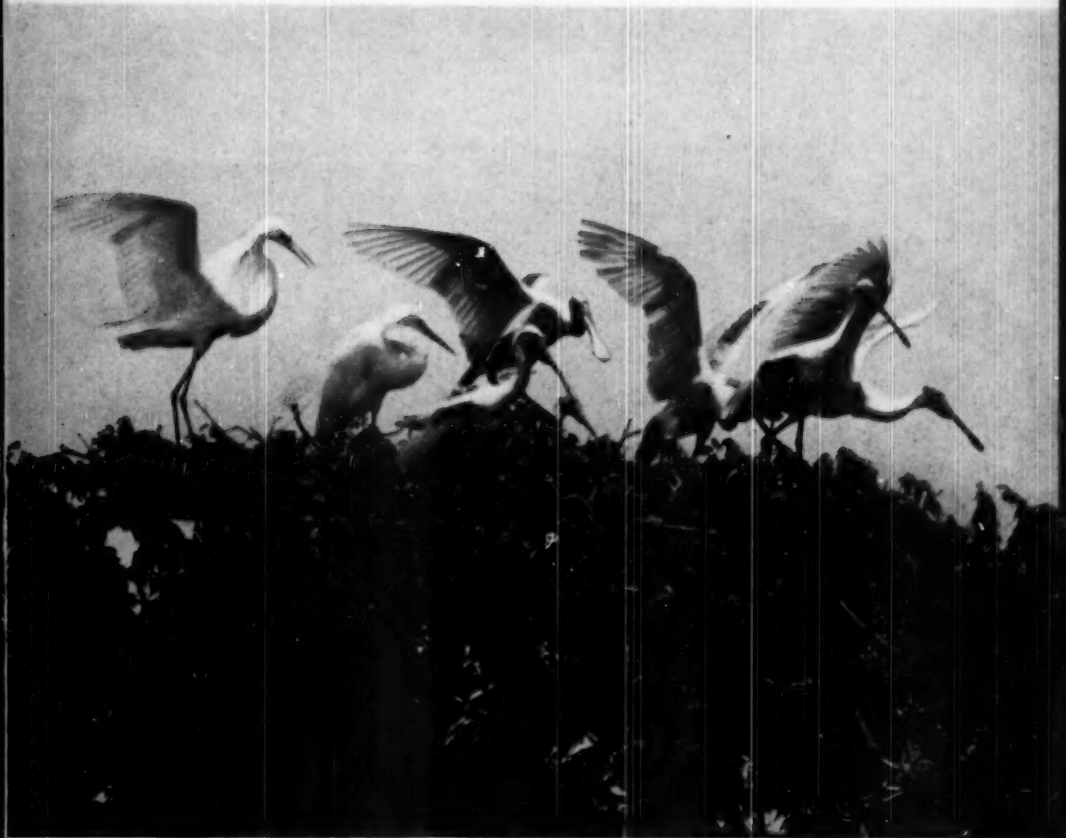


The BULLETIN

OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY



AMERICAN EGRETS AND ROSEATE SPOONBILLS

Hugo H. Schroder

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MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1896 INCORPORATED 1914

FOR THE PROTECTION OF WILD BIRDS AND MAMMALS

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The President's Page



It is pleasing to hear a Governor in his inaugural to the General Court stress the importance of conservation of our natural resources, whether of sea beach, or mountain, or of fisheries. When Emerson wrote in "Seashore":—

"I heard or seemed to hear the chiding Sea
Say, Pilgrim, why so late or slow to come?
Am I not always here, thy summer home?
Is not my voice thy music, morn and eve?
My breath thy healthful climate in the heats,
My touch thy antidote, my bay thy bath?"

he then little thought that the disposal of the sewage of the Metropolitan Boston district would force the State Health Department to close every beach from Winthrop to Quincy.

Of course the great beaches not now open to the public should become the property of the Commonwealth. I have in mind particularly those advocated by the State Planning Board at Wingaersheek, at Duxbury, at Barnstable, and at Westport.

During the life of the late Thomas Emerson Proctor, the beautifully planted Bradstreet Hill, overlooking the wide marshes of the Ipswich River, was open to the public. It is open no longer, and bird lovers and botanists lament its loss. It has been offered for sale by the Executors and should be bought by the State to preserve its many beauties.

Robert Walcott

Provide Your Birds A Nesting Place

By C. RUSSELL MASON AND PARKER C. REED



JOHN B. MAY

A Screech Owl Box with "Pull-string Trap" Door for Banding Purposes.

The cutting down of old orchards and the elimination of dead or partially decaying trees deprives many of our most interesting birds of nesting sites in natural cavities. This can be compensated for, with much pleasure on the part of the builders, by making nesting boxes, or birdhouses, of the proper size and type to meet the requirements of the birds of the locality that normally make use of natural tree cavities or the deserted cradle of a bird carpenter such as the flicker or the downy woodpecker.

Anyone from a small youngster to grandfather or grandmother may enjoy building a bird's nesting box; and all the family will derive pleasure from watching the birds at their household duties. At the same time, the encouragement to birds to nest about lawn or garden or woodland helps to keep under control the many injurious insects that prey upon our vegetable and flower crops, our shrubs, and our trees.

The first thing to consider in planning the building of birdhouses is the species of birds found in your neighborhood that might make use of such structures; then construct houses to fit the requirements of such of these birds as you particularly want to attract. Too often people build simply a birdhouse without considering the particular bird for which it should be built; the house remains vacant and the builder is disappointed.

Having decided what birds using nesting boxes you want to attract about your grounds, study the size and type of house needed for this species of bird, get your materials and tools together, and you will find that only a short time is needed to have a place ready for the bluebird or robin or tree swallow that is coming back from its winter sojourn in the South. An experience well remembered by one of the writers was the appearance about the yard one spring of a pair of crested flycatchers that found no house ready for them. Quickly a house was knocked together, put up that same evening, and the next day the flycatchers started their nest in it.

In the building and placing of any birdhouses, there are certain requirements that apply to all. The first has already been mentioned—to build the house for some particular species that is a summer resident of your section, as chickadee or bluebird or wood duck, not just "a birdhouse."

Follow the specifications which are given in this article as to size and location of house and diameter of entrance hole. These specifications are based upon the place the bird in question would use were it taking advantage of a natural cavity such as a knothole or a cavity some bird had excavated.

Except in the case of the purple martin, build a one-family box only. Most songbirds have a highly developed territory habit and will not permit another bird family under the same roof.

As a general rule, houses should be placed in open locations, as on a post, a dead tree, the long open bole of a tall tree, or on a building, rather than among thick branches or heavy foliage.

Place the box where the birds may be free from danger of house cats, or provide the tree or post with a cat-guard of galvanized sheet iron.

Put up only a few bird boxes in a limited area, depending on the cover and food available. Except for members of the swallow family, there are likely to be not over four or five box-nesting species to the acre. If there is an abundance of food available through heavy plantings of berry-bearing trees and shrubs, a greater density of nesting birds may be expected. Extra boxes, too, seem to be liked by the birds, as perhaps allowing them a greater choice of location.

It is not desirable to place nesting material either in or on a nesting box, as it may indicate to the prospective tenant that some other bird has prior rights. Birds will often use nesting material, however, if it is conveniently placed in the crotch of a near-by tree or in a special holder made for this purpose.

Bits of yarn, wool, or cotton, horsehair, and sphagnum moss will prove acceptable to the birds. Yarn should be cut into lengths of ten or twelve inches, for if too long the birds may get tangled up in them. It is interesting to follow the use of such yarn by the Baltimore orioles of your neighborhood, for it serves as a fine substitute for plant fibers in the building of their long pouchlike nests.

Over fifty species of American birds have been known to nest in artificial devices, but those for which the specifications of houses follow are most likely to become your tenants. In some cases, of course, one species of bird will use a box built for and intended for another species. In order to prevent the use by house sparrows of the boxes for small birds like wrens and chickadees, it is well to keep the entrance hole smaller than an inch and a half in diameter. At times it is necessary to discourage attempts made by introduced species, like the house sparrow and the starling, to occupy the nesting boxes, by removing their eggs and nests as fast as nests are made or eggs are deposited.

Follow These Specifications Carefully

	Floor of cavity (inside)	Depth of cavity	Diameter of entrance hole	Center of hole above floor
BLUEBIRD, TREE SWALLOW	4" by 5"	7" to 9"	1½"	5½" to 7¼"
HOUSE WREN	4" by 4"	5" to 7"	1"	3½" to 5½"
CAROLINA WREN			(1⅛" for Carolina Wren)	
CRESTED FLYCATCHER	6" by 6"	8" to 10"	2"	6" to 8"
PURPLE MARTIN	6" by 6"	6"	2½"	2¼"
CHICKADEE, NUTHATCH,	4" by 4"	8" to 10"	1¼"	6" to 8"
TITMOUSE, DOWNY			(1⅛" for Chickadee)	
HAIRY WOODPECKER	6" by 6"	13" to 15"	1¾" to 2"	9" to 12"
SCREECH OWL, FLICKER	7" by 7"	16" to 18"	3¼"	12" to 14"
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER			(2½" for Redhead)	
WOOD DUCK, HOODED	10" by 10"	15" to 18"	5"	10" to 13"
MERGANSER, GOLDEN EYE,			(7" for Golden-eye)	
SPARROW HAWK				

Directions for Placing Birdhouses

BLUEBIRD, TREE SWALLOW. Place box in the open, on a pole, fence post, or dead tree, 4 to 15 feet above the ground. By keeping a bluebird house in the open and not over 4 or 5 feet above the ground, house sparrows will be discouraged from using it.

HOUSE WREN. Hang or place box 5 to 10 feet above the ground. This is one species that does not object to having a swinging box. Wrens may also make use of larger boxes intended for bluebirds and may often fill every box about the location with nesting material, even though they will finally use only one. A rectangular "letter slot" opening, one inch high by three inches long, may be made instead of the inch-round hole, to make it easier for the wrens to get their awkwardly long sticks into the house. For the **CAROLINA WREN** make the entrance hole 1⅛ inches in diameter.

CRESTED FLYCATCHER. Place the box 8 to 20 feet above the ground, on a dead tree, an open tree trunk, or a pole near trees.

PURPLE MARTIN. This is one species that will make use of a house of several compartments. Not less than six or eight compartments should be provided, and this may be increased to any number. Special directions for such a "colony" house follow. However, several single houses arranged about the top of a tall pole may be used in place of an "apartment" house. Houses for martins should be placed in the open on a pole 15 to 20 feet high that may be easily raised and lowered for the cleaning of the house, or on the ridgepole of a building. A method used by Indians to attract these birds, and still largely in use in the southern United States today, is to suspend hollow gourds of the proper size from crossbars or a wagon wheel placed on top of a pole.

CHICKADEE, NUTHATCH, TITMOUSE, DOWNY WOODPECKER. Place the box 5 to 15 feet above the ground, on a tree trunk, below the limbs. In winter these birds will often make use of any type box as sleeping quarters or as a seed cache. For the **RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH**, place a little pitch or resin about the entrance hole and hang on the trunk of a coniferous tree. In sections where the **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER** is a summer resident, a box of the above dimensions, hung only 3 to 4 feet above water, may be made use of by this colorful species.

HAIRY WOODPECKER. Place on tree bole below limbs 8 to 25 feet above the ground.

FLICKER. Place on tree hole below limbs 12 to 20 feet above the ground. This type of box, placed as above, is also suitable for the **SAW-WHET OWL** and may also be used by the **SCREECH OWL**, though the latter may prefer a box with a slightly larger interior—8 by 10 inches. The **RED-HEADED WOODPECKER** will also use a flicker box, though an entrance hole only 2½ inches in diameter is large enough.

WOOD DUCK and **HOODED MERGANSER.** The box should be placed 4 to 20 feet above the ground on a dead stump or against a tree trunk, or even among the tree limbs, near a small pond or creek or in a swampy woodland; only a few feet above the water, however, for the hooded merganser. Placing the box on a pole set in water will help prevent predatory animals from destroying eggs or young. Rustic type boxes covered with bark seem to be preferred by these ducks. The wood duck may often nest a considerable distance from water, though preferably the house should be placed not over one-fourth mile distant, with one-half mile as a maximum. For the **GOLDEN-EYE**, the diameter of the hole should be 7 inches. A nail keg of the right size, with entrance hole cut in it, may be conveniently used as a house by these ducks. The interesting **SPARROW HAWK** may make use of either a wood duck or a screech owl house.

The houses for woodpeckers, owls, ducks, and sparrow hawks should have about two inches of wood chips on the floor.

Houses particularly liked by many birds can be made from hollowed-out sections of a bark-covered log or telephone pole. Such sections may be sawed lengthwise, hollowed out to the proper size with chisel, making a gourd-shaped cavity slightly larger toward the bottom, entrance carved out, and the two halves again placed together and held by screws.

ROBIN and **PHOEBE.** Although they will not nest in enclosed boxes, these species will frequently use brackets or simple shelves, 6 by 8 inches in size, placed in a convenient location. They may either be roofed over about 8 inches above the shelf, with three sides open, or placed under the eaves or porch roof, where protection will be afforded from the rain.

Successful attempts to encourage the rodent-eating **BARN OWL** to nest in barns have been made by nailing a shelf against the wall inside the barn and cutting an opening to the outside. The shelf should be three feet long and about 15 inches wide and a foot deep, with a partition seven or eight inches high in the middle, with the fifteen-inch side attached to the barn wall just below the opening. The owls will make their nest in the section of the box farthest from the opening.

Those who enjoy studying the **OSPREY**, or **FISH HAWK**, at close range will find that a wagon wheel or platform atop a high pole may encourage this bird to nest quite near the farm dwelling, provided suitable feeding areas for the ospreys are near.

To encourage **BARN SWALLOWS** to use barns successfully, short strips or blocks of wood nailed to inside rafters will help provide supports for their nests of mud pellets and straw; while cleats an inch or two wide nailed on the outside of the barn six inches below the overhang of the eaves may provide similar support for the mud nests of **CLIFF SWALLOWS**.

Construction Hints

To provide sufficient insulation and thus protect the nestlings from too high temperatures, use wood ¾ to 7⁄8 inches in thickness rather than thinner

wood or metal, clay, or building paper. The best woods to use are eastern white pine, cypress, or cedar. However, almost any of the soft pines, except ponderosa, may be used, as well as poplar, whitewood, or Philippine mahogany.

Galvanized or brass nails, screws, and other hardware are preferable to those made of iron.

Ventilation should be provided by holes of about one-fourth inch diameter for cooling and drying the interior.

To reduce the danger of drowning young birds during heavy storms, bore drainage holes in the bottom of the box.

Extend the roof well beyond the front of the box to drain off water and to help shade the entrance hole as well as to protect the latter from driving rains.

In order to clean the box readily, be sure to have one side, or top or bottom, rigged so that it may be easily opened. After the birds have left the box, the old nest may then be removed and the box cleaned. This will prevent the multiplication of parasites that might be harbored, even over winter, in the old nesting material, perhaps to destroy the young the following year. It is recommended that the inside of the boxes be painted with 5% DDT solution each year before the boxes are occupied, to eliminate parasites.

To provide a convenient place for firm nailing of the box to supporting tree or pole, have the back piece of the box extend a short distance above the top and below the bottom.

Though birds like the wren and crested flycatcher will use perches placed on the *outside* below the entrance, *such perches are unnecessary* and may make the boxes more attractive to the house sparrow. Small strips of wood or strips of coarse wire extending down from the opening on the *inside* of the box will act as a ladder for young birds leaving the nest and help them to cling to the inside of an otherwise smooth wall.

Those who make birdhouses carefully will want them to last as long as possible. Wood-treating materials are now available which contain a water repellent, a fungicide, and a penetrating oil. These are extremely effective in increasing the life of the birdhouses by reducing weathering and decay. This preservative is explained in greater detail in the written instructions for the design drawings appearing at the end of this article. This treatment is far more effective than paint in preserving the wood. However, paint is a help in case the wood-treating preparations are not available. It should also be noted that after the wood-treating materials have been applied, in three or four days the houses can be painted if a certain color is desired. Whether paint or preservative is used, the parts had best be treated *before being assembled* to give the maximum protection from decay.

Apparently, dark green, dark gray, or dark brown are the colors preferred by the birds; also, these inconspicuous shades blend well into the landscape and make the birdhouses less noticeable.

Instructions for Birdhouses

GENERAL.

In offering the drawings on the following pages, it has been assumed that long-lasting, substantial, simple, workmanlike designs suited to the purpose are wanted. If the instructions are followed, you should have many years of pleasure from your work. The extra time required to make a really good box will earn dividends in many extra years of usefulness.

The first drawing shows the general appearance and location of parts of all of the Moose Hill type houses.

Materials and Hardware

WOODS—There are quite a number of suitable woods that will work easily. The following list is recommended: eastern white pine, Idaho pine, sugar pine, cedar, cypress, whitewood, Philippine mahogany, and poplar. Redwood can also be used, but, since it splits easily, holes should be drilled for the nails. Ponderosa pine is not recommended. Do not use green or wet lumber, as it will split and warp.

THICKNESS OF STOCK—The parts for the Moose Hill houses should be about $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick. Do not use $\frac{1}{2}$ " stock. The martin house must be made of stock of accurate thickness, otherwise the parts will not assemble.

NAILS—Do not use common steel nails, as they rust away and cause disfiguring streaks as well. Do use galvanized 5-penny flathead box nails. These are easily obtained.

SCREWS AND HINGES—Screws and hinges should be of brass. Plated hardware is not satisfactory as it will not stand up in the weather. Be sure the hinges are brass and not brass-plated steel. As to size, 1" broad butts put on with $\frac{5}{8}$ " x #6 Round Head Brass Wood Screws are suggested.

TURN BUTTONS—Should be made of brass, aluminum, or hardwood. The latter is the simplest. If you plan to put a box where it might be meddled with, a hasp and padlock would be well worth while, particularly for the wood duck house.

Protecting the House

Since 1936 rapid strides have been made in developing the formulation and uses of wood preservatives. There are now a number of extremely effective wood preservatives. At present large quantities are used by the manufacturers of wooden items and by contractors for a wide variety of products, particularly in the building industry. Window and door frames, sash, outdoor flooring posts, and other parts where the wood is exposed to rot, weather, moisture, or insect destruction are now being treated with these preservatives largely as common practice.

Unfortunately these materials have received but little publicity in other than industrial fields, and only a few of these are at present available for the home owner for use in repairs and miscellaneous constructions about the home.

These wood preservatives are formulated by several of the large chemical companies under various trade names and are sold usually through industrial channels in drum and tank car quantities. Recently, however, a few of these are becoming available and can be obtained in quarts and gallons. A list of trade names and the suppliers is given below. These concerns will either supply directly or refer to a convenient dealer.

Wood Tox. Wood Treating Chemicals Co., 5137 Southwest Ave.,
St. Louis 10, Mo.

Teksol #55. C. G. Dadmun Company, Newtonville 60, Mass.

Permatox WR. Chapman Chemical Co., 333 North Michigan Ave.,
Chicago 1, Ill.

Chemiseal #100 Toxic. Any Chris-Craft dealer.

The various formulations of these preservatives are basically similar in that they consist of (1) a fungicide and insecticide, usually either one of the chlorinated phenols or an organic mercurial; (2) a water repellent, usually a resin; and (3) a light refined petroleum solvent to penetrate the wood and thus carry the other two active ingredients into the cells and fibers.

The light oil evaporates enough in 24 to 48 hours to allow painting. The application of a preservative is extremely simple, for wood parts may be dipped, ragged, or slosh-brushed, and stood aside to drain. Birdhouse or feeder parts may be assembled while still wet if desired. Staining can be very easily done by adding about a spoonful of ordinary Brown Mahogany Oil Stain to a half pint of preservative. The depth of color can be adjusted to suit the taste by varying the amount of stain and trying it on a piece of scrap wood of the same kind to be colored.

Merely painting a birdhouse has little effect on its life unless frequently repeated, but a preservative treatment will increase its life (by the treatment given it at assembly) by at least five times. At any rate, whether you use only paint or preservative, be sure to treat the parts *before* they are assembled. The preservative is adequate protection without paint but can be painted over satisfactorily if desired. The use of a preservative is strongly recommended.

Specific Notes for "Moose Hill" Type Houses

Note A. After the bottom is fitted and cut to final length, cut the corners to provide a drain and to help the circulation of air up through the nesting material.

Note B. Cut this piece the length called for on the drawing. Then it can be fitted and recut to the required length when it is installed. It cannot be pre-cut, as this length depends on the actual thickness of the left side and the door.

Note C. The strips indicated are rain and door stops and should be about $3/8'' \times 3/8''$ in cross section. When nailing them in place they should be spaced from the edge of the part the thickness of the door plus about $1/64''$.

Note D. The inside top edge of the door must be filed as shown on the detail drawings and on the sketch of the assembled house, in order that the door may be opened. A rasp and a file for smoothing are simple tools for this purpose.

Note E. After the door is cut as shown, plane the short edge to make the door about $1/16''$ narrower than the left side. (*Do not* do this until you are ready to install the door.) Then plane the edges as shown, just enough to make the door swing free.

Note F. All of the houses except the wren house show a "ladder" under the hole. The purpose is to provide a means for the young to get out when they are ready to leave the nest. The "ladder" offered here is a strip of coarse wire (hardware) cloth (2, 3, or 4 mesh to the inch) of the length shown on each drawing, and about $1'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}''$ wide, except for the wood duck house, which should be about $3''$ wide. It should be bent slightly along the long axis and tacked in place with double-prong tacks. The convex side should be out, and the tacks should not be driven quite "home." A series of small twigs nailed ladderlike under the hole will also accomplish the purpose. The wren house needs none, since it is quite shallow and these birds build a fairly deep nest of small twigs and sticks.

Note G. When the house is assembled, the back edge of the roof that meets the back should be smeared with a thin layer of one of the common

non-hardening, putty-like mastic materials usually intended for weather stripping and filling cracks around window and door frames. The roof can be pressed in place and the squeeze-out scraped away after the roof is nailed.

Note H. Draw the pencil line on the finished part. It is for use in assembling. This marks the location of the binder side of the bottom.

Order of Assembly for "Moose Hill" Type Houses

- (1) Nail the front and left sides together.
- (2) Nail the left side to the back, using the door to help hold the parts in place and the pencil line as the guide.
- (3) Fit the bottom, recut to proper length, and nail it completely in place. (Do not forget to re-treat cut edge.)
- (4) Push the door in place again and nail on the top (using mastic in the top back joint).
- (5) Fit the door per notes D and E and install hinges and turn-button.
- (6) When installing the house, be sure to place it right and add chips where called for.

Specific Notes for the "Martin House"

Note 1. Tack fine insect screen on the inside over the holes to keep out wasps.

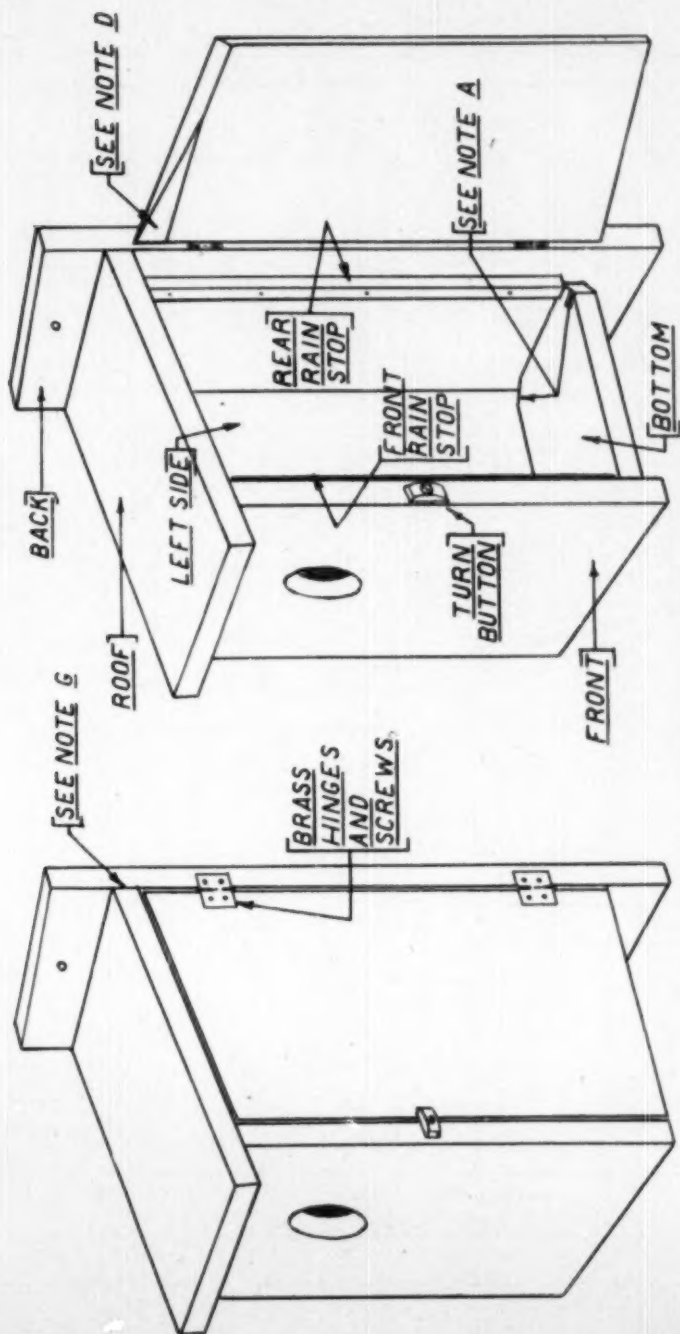
Note 2. Parts H should be made as shown on the detail drawing and assembled temporarily in place as it is shown on the assembly. They should then be filed with a rasp to shape the top faces to conform to the general cone shape of the roof-supporting structure, in order that the roofing can be nailed flush to the outer ring formed by these pieces. After the shaping is done, the pieces can be nailed or screwed permanently in place.

Note 3. Three cleats (part M) are to hold the two stories together and should be located and screwed on when the final matching of the two stories is made. Three cleats (part N) are to fasten the second story and roof together and can be installed when the second story is assembled. The screw holes shown on the detail drawing are for #8 x 1 1/4" Round Head Brass or Galvanized Wood Screws. Parts M and N should be made of oak, maple, or birch.

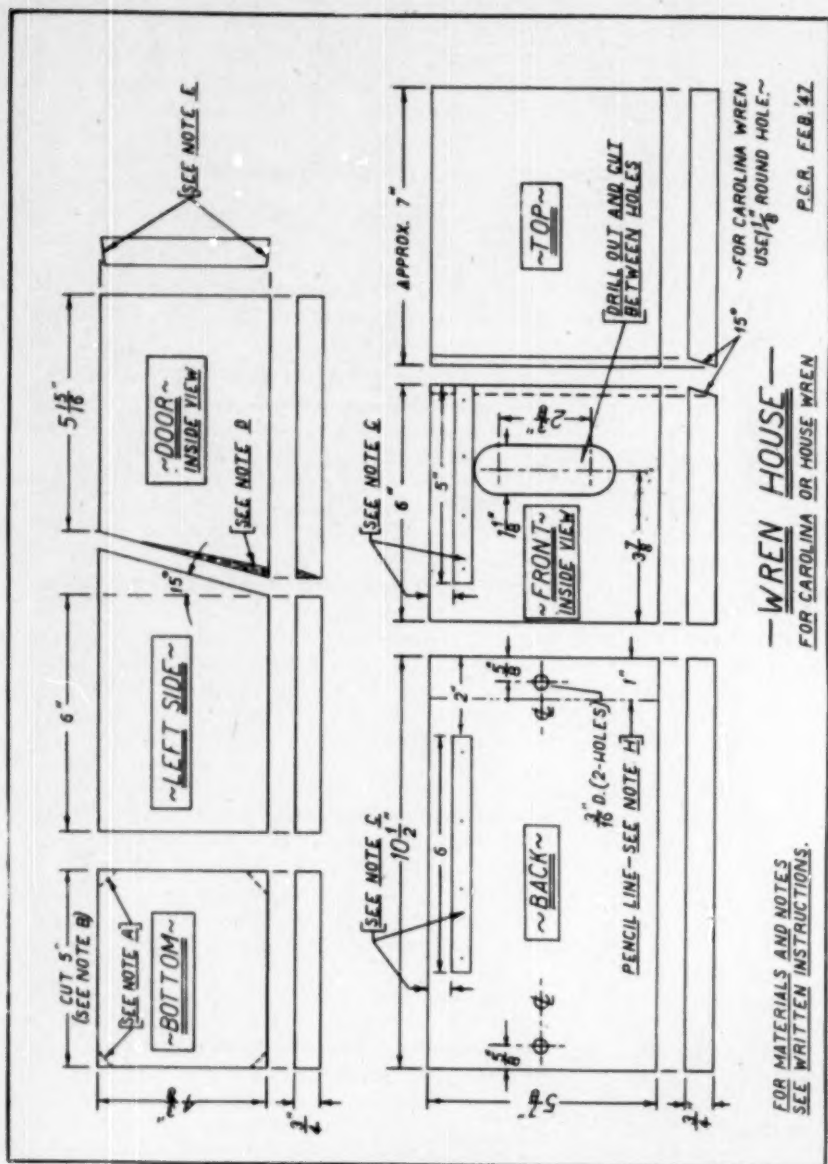
Note 4. After the cleats M and N are screwed in place, and the two stories and roof structure are stacked, drill No. 43 holes, using the No. 43 holes in the cleats as drill guides and push in 5-penny galvanized box nails as pins. If pins are used, these can be readily pulled out when the house is to be taken apart for cleaning after a season's use by the birds.

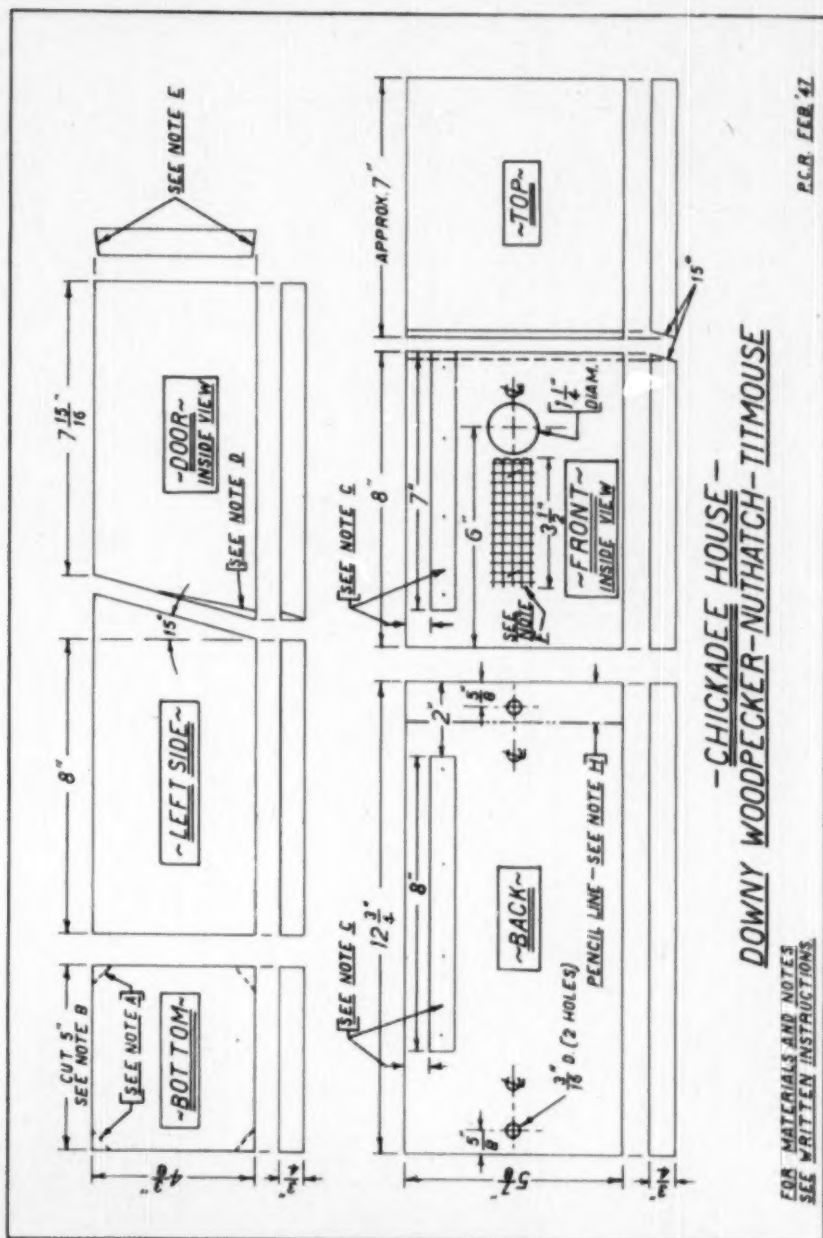
Note 5. Before nailing the roofing (part J) in place on the roof structure, smear a coating of asphalt roofing cement on all areas of the roof-supporting structure that will be in contact with the roofing. Start the nailing of the roof at the slit and continue around, nailing progressively. The overlap can then be cut with an oiled or wet knife and the last edge tacked in place. Installing the roofing should be the very last operation in making the house. Use large copper or galvanized tacks for the roofing; do not use regular large-head roofing nails. The roofing material is quite hard and brittle when cold. Unless it is warmed it cannot be formed nor easily cut. Laying it in the sun for a half hour will make it quite pliable.

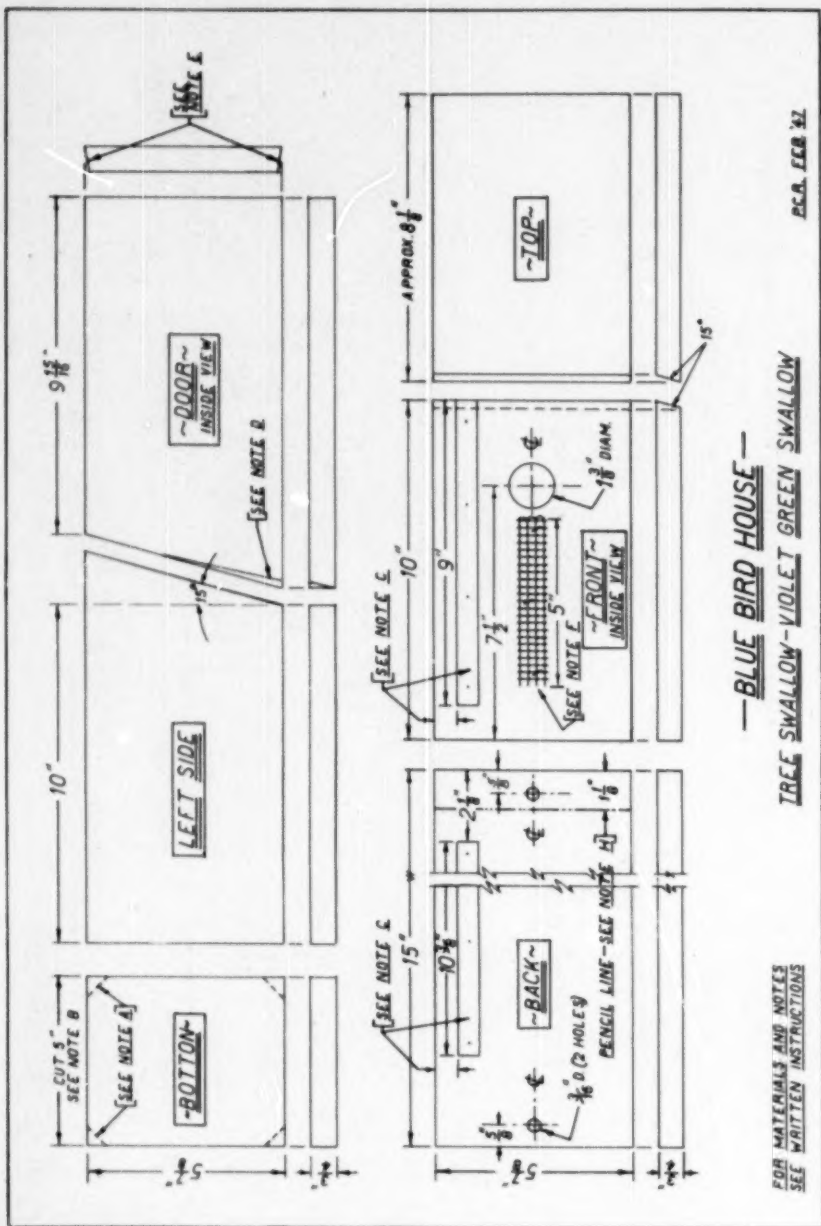
Parts K and L—should be made from boards edge-glued with a waterproof glue such as "Weldwood" or "Cascamita." Plywood seems ideal for these parts, but unless you can obtain the resin-bonded waterproof type, plywood should not be used, for common plywood disintegrates in the weather.

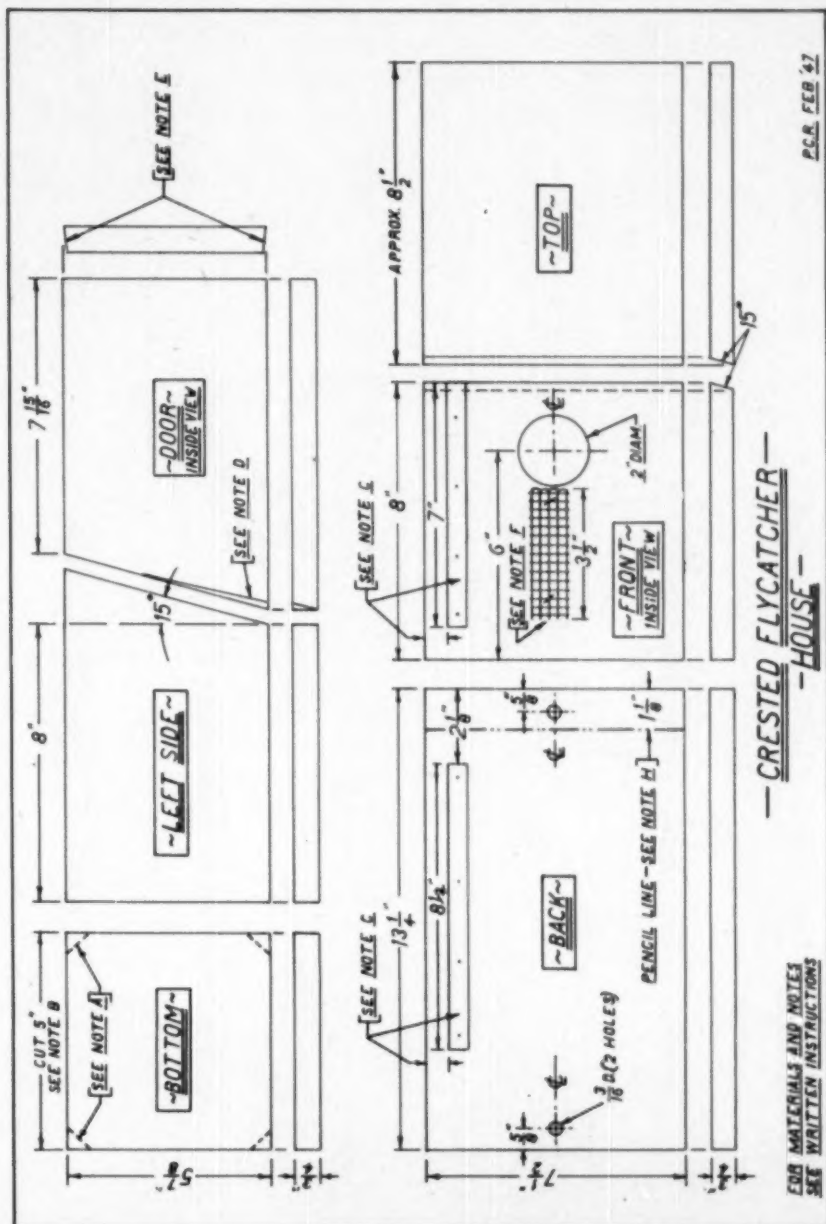


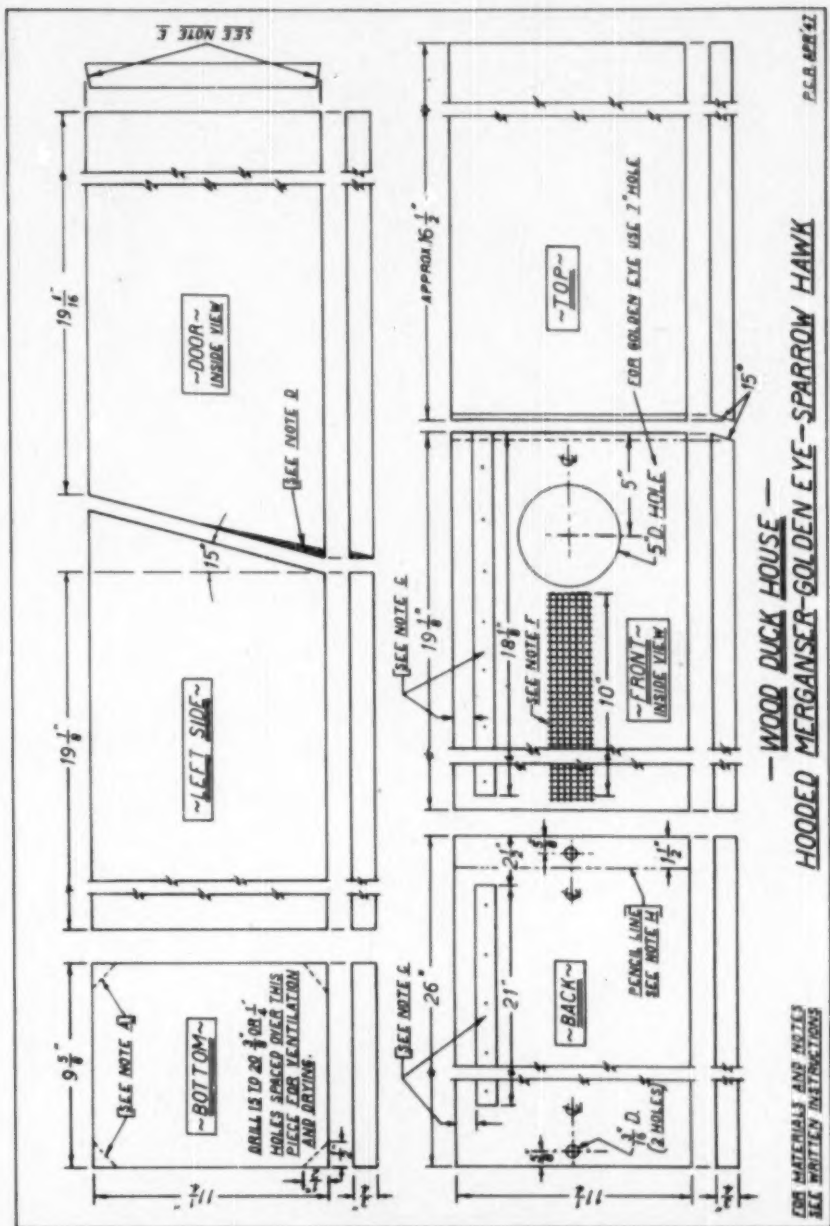
—SHOWING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE
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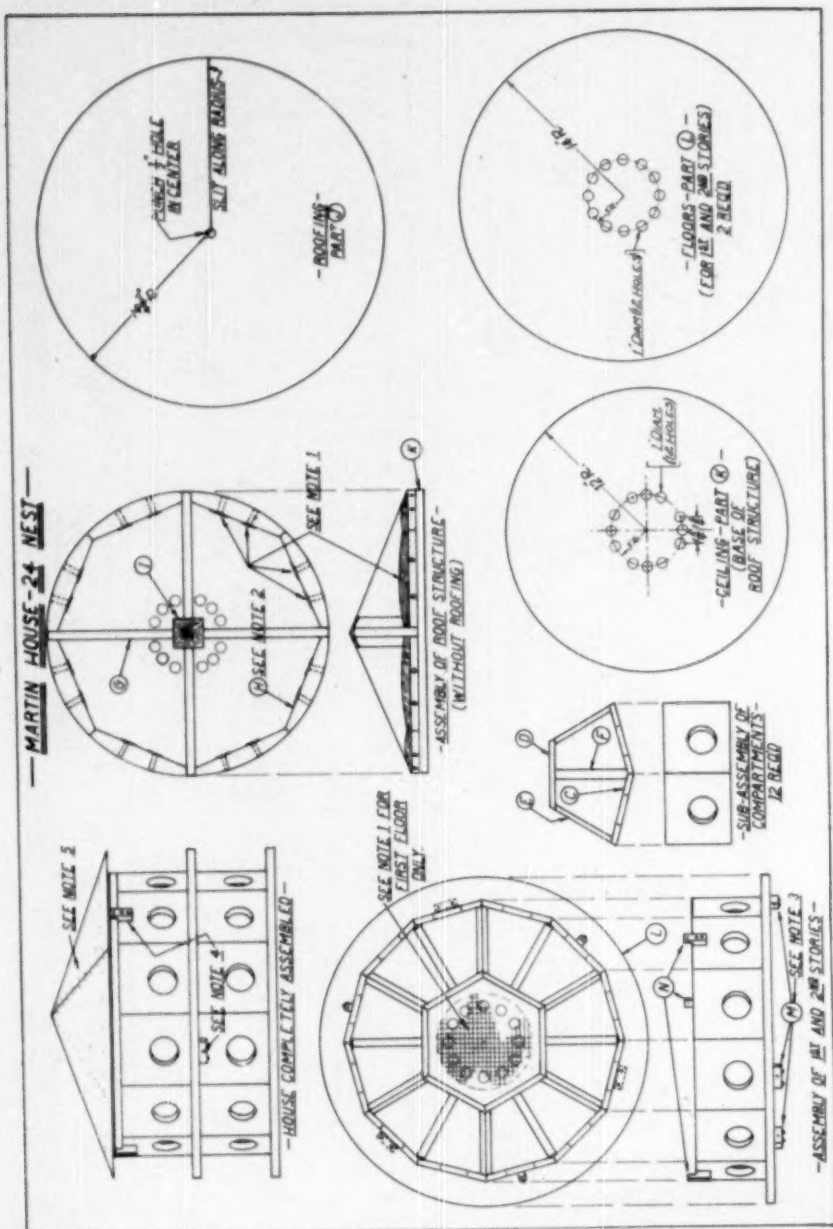












Notes from the Sanctuaries

COOK'S CANYON: During October, 144 visitors registered at the Sanctuary, among whom were Judge Robert Walcott and his daughter and Mr. and Mrs. Rosario Mazzeo, of Cambridge. On October 8 the Allen Bird Club included Cook's Canyon in its tour of the Quabbin-Petersham-Barre area. A pair of yellow-bellied sapsuckers was seen by Allen Club members at the Sanctuary, and the mycologists of the group were delighted to find a prodigious growth of mushrooms which had sprouted beneath the pines following a heavy rain. On October 9 the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association held its fall meeting at the Canyon. Various types of bird-banding traps were displayed and discussed, and following a picnic lunch on the lawn the group toured the Sanctuary. On October 11-12 the fall reunion of the Natural Science Workshop was held, under the leadership of Dr. William G. Vinal, Miss Rachel Bruce, and Miss Frances Sherburne, assisted by other members of the staff. Lawrence Loy directed a square dance party for part of the group in the afternoon, while the more rugged explored the depths of the Canyon with Cap'n Bill.

Thirty-eight visitors registered at Cook's Canyon in November. On the morning of November 19, a ruffed grouse, stunned by flying against a fence on the grounds, was picked up and brought to headquarters by Roger McKinstry. After banding the young bird it was released near Goosefeather Lodge, as these birds feed regularly on a flat stone beside the canyon road near the Lodge. Miss Alice Lincoln, who occupies the Lodge, has very kindly assisted by dispensing cracked corn each morning. Two or three pheasants may be seen almost daily feeding in the yard in front of the Sanctuary headquarters.

More than seventy-five visitors registered during the month of December, most of them young people of the neighborhood; probably at least twenty-five more failed to register, making a total of well over one hundred persons. What appear to be valid reports have come to the Superintendent of a moose seen in the area a little north of Barre, between Royalston, Massachusetts, and Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire, with several of the reports being from the Massachusetts side of the line. In 1948 a gunner was fined two hundred dollars in near-by New Hampshire for failing to distinguish between a legally protected moose and an "open season" deer.

A stereoscopic picture of the Cook residence, probably taken in the 1890's, has been presented to the Sanctuary by J. Alfred Taylor. Miss Alice Lincoln has contributed photographs of Cook's Canyon taken over a period of years (especially during the hurricane period). Several much appreciated books have been received for the Sanctuary library from Laurence B. Fletcher.

During the cold spell of early December a meadowlark suffering from exposure was brought to Cook's Canyon by Karen Swenberg, Judith Baker, and Bobby Blaisdell. The children, who found it in a chicken yard about 10:30 on Saturday morning, December 10, said it was trying to get out but was unable to fly, even over the low fence. Efforts to revive the sick bird at first seemed successful, but during the following night it succumbed to its weakened condition. The thermometer at the Sanctuary had recorded 10 degrees below zero the night before the bird was brought in. Although the great majority of the birds of this species prefer the warmth of our southern States during the winter months, a few remain to brave our cold New England winters. This is more often true along the sea coast, but in the interior of Massachusetts the meadowlark is a very irregular or rare winter visitor. This

is the only record of which Mr. Magee knows for the town of Barre at this season. It would be greatly appreciated if the presence of other unusual birds could be brought to the attention of the Audubon staff at Cook's Canyon, as it would assist in making a record of the birds of this area.

ARCADIA SANCTUARY: Short-eared and snowy owls helped to enliven the last days of 1949 for quite a few birders in the Northampton area. The Mason family found the two short-eared owls at LaFleur Airport while looking for two snowy owls that had been reported. The snowy was eventually located at Northampton's other airport, the Atwood, on the road to Springfield. Miss Myra Sampson, of Smith College, got an insight into the extent of the snowy owl invasion when an incoming flyer at Atwood Airport, who had just arrived from Hartford, was heard to say that when he took off at Hartford, a snowy owl was sitting on a runway marker at the airport there.

The warm weather opened Arcadia Marsh, so that 130 black ducks were present on December 26, when the Christmas census was taken, and 175 were present on the 29th. Three mallards were also present on the 26th, and the same day a flock of twelve American mergansers flew over. Six mergansers were on the Oxbow on the 29th, giving a typically springlike appearance to that curving sheet of water. Two boys in Florence, David Howell and Mark Rand, are custodians of a male wood duck wintering in a quick-flowing section of Mill River. The boys found the bird, apparently rustling for food on the bank of the river, on December 30. It was brought to Arcadia for examination and banding, then returned to the river. Although unable to fly, the bird was in wonderful condition. The hope is that, with normal exercising, it will fully regain its powers of flight. The boys plan to supplement the wood duck's natural food supply with a little corn from time to time. One red squirrel doesn't make an invasion, but for the first time one has been seen around headquarters at Arcadia. During the Christmas census, not one gray squirrel was seen, which is most unusual, and only one rabbit was flushed, which is below the normal number.

PLEASANT VALLEY: In 1949 Pleasant Valley Sanctuary passed its twentieth year, and in looking back over events of the year it appears that a number of noteworthy things have occurred. First and foremost of these was the completion of the new trailside museum—a memorial to past benefactors and friends of the Sanctuary. All who have seen it agree that it is a beautiful building which blends into the woodland backdrop very nicely. Also, it is proving itself very satisfactory as a museum building and headquarters for the nature day camp. Exhibits are well lighted, and yet the building remains comfortable on the hottest days. The library, which flanks the massive stone fireplace on the north end, has been made very comfortable by a most generous anonymous gift of a beautiful leather sofa and two easy chairs.

One of the most striking exhibits was a large panel opposite the entrance on which were hung bird paintings and nature photographs. Four new electric nature games were in almost constant use, and an exhibit of kodachromes drew a great deal of attention. An exhibit of live insects and a woodland wildflower garden set on a large tray were among the other exhibits to be seen during the course of the summer.

The Sanctuary Barn was operated most successfully by Miss Nancy Fox. In addition to serving meals and sandwiches, the Snack Bar, which was installed in one of the sheds adjoining the Barn, made soft drinks and ice cream available to those in need of refreshment.

One of the most successful innovations this year was a Friends and Members Night held on the second Saturday in September. Everyone attending brought a covered dish, and a huge buffet supper was spread out on the great Shaker workbench. A roaring fire in the old colonial fireplace added much to the cheer of more than one hundred people who sat down to the tables. After a leisurely and hearty repast, all went to the new museum, where Mr. J. Edward Hyde, of Springfield, showed a most interesting wildlife film which he had taken in and about New England. So successful was this evening that another is planned as early as will be practical in the spring.

The program carried on with the local summer camps and with the Pleasant Valley nature day camp was bigger than ever, and yet it is hoped to add a fourth session to the day camp next summer.

This fall an agreement was reached with the local Soil Conservation authorities whereby Pleasant Valley Sanctuary will receive many berry-bearing shrubs, which will be decorative and also extremely helpful in attracting more birds along the hedgerows about the Sanctuary grounds. The first shipment of shrubs, already received, included Tartarian honeysuckle and coralberry.

MOOSE HILL: A single leopard frog disinclined to hibernate, and observed sporting himself on the last days of the year in the open water of the small lily pool near the Sanctuary residence, served to indicate quite adequately the open and mild weather characteristic of most of the month. The back swimmers still active in the same pool may well have allayed any holiday hunger developed by an unretiring amphibian.

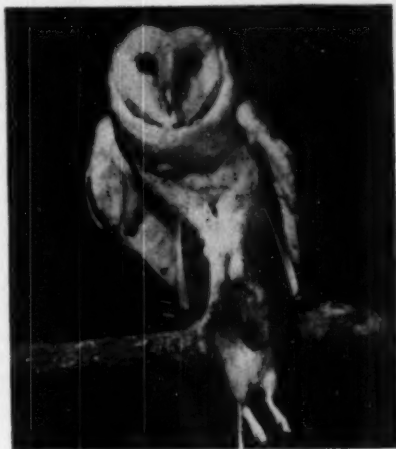
On the avian side of the picture, the generally mild conditions and absence of heavy snows were reflected in a smaller amount of food consumption at the Sanctuary feeding facilities. Evening grosbeaks made their welcome debut on December 6, when two pairs attacked the proffered sunflower seeds with customary avidity. Their subsequent visits, however, were few and sporadic. Fox sparrows were last seen on December 8, when three individuals were observed gleaning food among the leaves under barberry bushes. The latter half of the month witnessed visits by relatively large flocks of goldfinches (up to 83) either drawing heavily upon the Moose Hill mixture or culling the long pods of the trumpet creeper. A small group of mourning doves seems determined to see the winter through on the Sanctuary environs and is regularly to be seen among the first breakfast callers. The roseate male purple finches and their less brilliant consorts persist in sizable numbers, and also to be counted among the daily visitors are the tree sparrows.

The exhibition alcove in the museum has been converted into a snow scene highlighted by a beautifully mounted snowy owl. Attention is called to the fact that we are experiencing a "snowy owl year," with large numbers being reported from various sections of the State. Also on display are mounted specimens of evergreens that are to be found growing along the Sanctuary trails.

On December 28 the televised nature program sponsored by the Boston Museum of Science featured two black-capped chickadees furnished by Moose Hill banding traps. Their unrehearsed performance received much favorable comment.

At the December meeting of the Walpole Parent-Teacher Association, Superintendent Bussewitz outlined the merits of the Society's school program, and he reports that sentiment toward having the Audubon course incorporated in the schools of that area appeared favorable.

This Wise Old Owl Says:



Come

To The

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Nature Theatre

Two fine programs of Motion
Pictures in Color interestingly
presented.

In early March KARL MASLOWSKI will entertain us
"BENEATH BUCKEYE SKIES."

Intimate studies of familiar and unfamiliar birds and beasts, bugs and blossoms,
in a setting much like our own New England.

Boston, John Hancock Hall, Mon., March 6, 8:00 P.M.

Northampton, Sage Hall, Smith College, Tues., Mar. 7, 8:00 P.M.

Worcester, Horticultural Hall, Fri., Mar. 3, 8:00 P.M.

In late March MURL DEUSING will transport us on a
"SAFARI IN AFRICA."

Striking pictures of native life, beautiful birds, strange animals; three months
of adventure packed into seventy minutes of stirring film.

Boston, John Hancock Hall, Mon., Mar. 27, 8:00 P.M.

Northampton, Sage Hall, Smith College, Tues., Mar. 28, 8:00 P.M.

Worcester, Horticultural Hall, Wed., Mar. 29, 8:00 P.M.

Tickets \$1.20 each, including tax.

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BE WISE

TALES OF THE WILDWOOD SERIES

*"Way down upon the S'wannee River,
Far, far away,"
That's where we'll go with ALLAN CRUICKSHANK,
That's where the Plume Birds stay.*

See this extremely popular bird photographer with his superb Motion Pictures in Color of

SUWANNEE ADVENTURE

Beverly Feb. 4; Adams Feb. 6; Pittsfield Feb. 6; Northampton Feb. 7;

West Springfield Feb. 8; Greenfield Feb. 8;

Barre Feb. 9; Ware Feb. 9; Gloucester Feb. 10.

(See local papers for hour and place.)

Boston, New England Mutual Hall, Sat., Feb. 11, 10:30 A.M.



BURGESS

Also coming in March, the children's favorite nature author,

THORNTON BURGESS

Honorary Vice President of the Massachusetts Audubon Society and Contributing Editor to its Bulletin,

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"Farewell Tour"

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FURRED AND FEATHERED FRIENDS AT HOME

Watch Bobby Coon and Jimmy Skunk, Sammy Jay, and other friends of the Dear Old Briar Patch.

Autographed Burgess books on sale.

Northampton Mar. 14; Gloucester Mar. 17; Worcester Mar. 21;

Salem Mar. 25; Greenfield Mar. 29.

(See local notices for hour and place.)

Boston, New England Mutual Hall, Sat., Mar. 18, 10:30 A.M.

Tickets for Boston lectures, Fifty Cents including tax.

***Don't fail to bring your children and their friends
to these outstanding programs.***

A Guide to Bird-Watching in Massachusetts

Massachusetts Audubon Society

JOHN B. MAY, *Editor*

"Where can we see shore birds in migration?" "Where can we hear the hermit thrush sing?" "Where do woodcock perform in spring?"

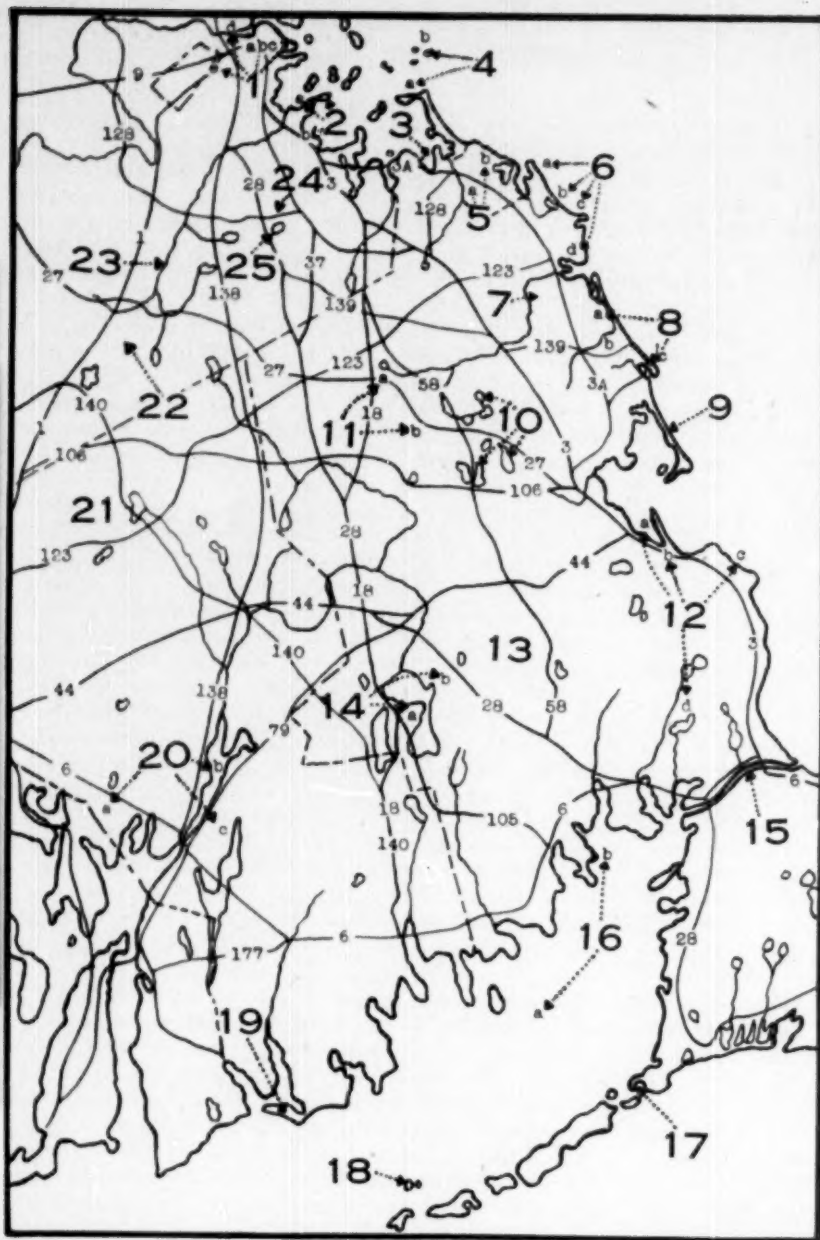
These and a multitude of similar questions are continually being asked our staff at Audubon House, at our sanctuaries, on our field trips, and wherever bird-watchers meet together in pursuit of their avocation. In an endeavor to gather in definite form the answers to some of these questions, many members of the Massachusetts Audubon Society have given their willing co-operation in the preparation of this "guide for bird-watchers."

This guide is planned especially for two classes of bird students; first, the comparative newcomer to bird-watching, young or old, whose recently awakened interest in birds calls him afield to add new species and interesting observations to his growing fund of bird lore; and, second, the more experienced visitor within our boundaries whose knowledge of birds is perhaps extensive but who is a stranger to our Massachusetts terrain. It therefore endeavors to locate and describe briefly observation points where certain kinds of birds may be looked for with a reasonable chance of success, in their proper seasons and under fair conditions. Its use presupposes some slight knowledge of bird habits and habitats, so that one will not waste time looking for ruffed grouse on tidal flats or sanderlings in a cedar swamp, nor for hummingbirds in January or snow buntings in July in Massachusetts. Birds of especial local or seasonal interest may be mentioned specifically, as purple sandpipers wintering at Rockport and Scituate, or Bicknell's thrush breeding on Mt. Greylock. Accidental stragglers in our region are not included, however. We recognize that conditions for birds vary greatly from time to time and that what may have been fine birding country at one time may be completely changed at a later date. We can only attempt to locate for our readers places which in recent years have furnished good birding for those who hunt with binocular and camera, field guide and notebook.

The seven sectional maps cover the entire Commonwealth. Town boundaries are not given, nor are village centers or railroad stations, as automobile road maps are available to everyone. The main highways are shown with their numbers in small type; the larger numbers refer to the birding locations as described in the text. Inquiries at local post offices, garages, etc., may be necessary when first visiting some of these sites, for cliffs, swamps, and even small ponds are often omitted from road maps.

Members of the staff at Audubon House, most of whom are active bird students and familiar with many of the best birding locations throughout the Commonwealth, will be glad to render any assistance in their power to help other bird-watchers locate good birding places. Their interest in thus aiding their fellow bird students is evidenced by the assistance they have given the Editor in preparing this "Guide to Bird-Watching." Without their help and the co-operation of many other members of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, the Editor never would have attempted to prepare this guide, and he takes this opportunity for sincerely thanking his numerous collaborators. Much of the information included comes from these others; the blame for errors and omissions must be placed on the shoulders of

THE EDITOR



THE MASSACHUSETTS SOUTH SHORE
From Boston Harbor to Buzzards Bay

Part I. The South Shore Region

Even the beginner in the gentle art of bird-watching quickly recognizes the influence of *surroundings* in governing the presence or absence of birds, and his knowledge of the various types of habitats in his locality becomes the basis for his successful adventures in bird-watching. The more different types of terrain in any given area, the more different species of birds which may be looked for in that area; the better one knows those types of terrain, the greater will be one's success in finding birds.

Our map of the South Shore Region includes that part of southeastern Massachusetts lying between Boston and Buzzards Bay, an area about forty-five by sixty-five miles in extent. Its long coast line makes it a good region for the study of water birds and shore birds, with several outstanding "observation" points. Back of the beaches and salt marshes, the rolling "coastal plain" offers many interesting land birds, but, because it is long-settled farming country interspersed with second-growth woodlands, there are few places of especial interest for the bird student.

At the northern extremity of the region is the Boston Basin, a depressed area between the rocky walls of the Blue Hills and the Middlesex Fells Reservations, drained by the Mystic, Charles, and Neponset rivers, and densely populated. Immediately south of the Basin lies the Blue Hills massif, a jumble of wooded hills where uplifted sedimentary outcrops partly conceal the underlying batholith of crystalline rocks. Southeast from the Blue Hills (which reach the greatest altitude in the region at Great Blue Hill, 660 feet, only a few short miles from the salt water of Boston Harbor), the coastal plain stretches toward Massachusetts Bay and south to Buzzards Bay, with scattered towns surrounded by agricultural lands, second-growth woodlands, and swampy areas with occasional ponds, an "outflow plain" which was formed as the great continental ice sheet retreated northward ages ago. From these swamps and ponds tiny brooks meander seaward through lush meadows and alder thickets, until nearing the coast they become, first brackish, then tidal creeks winding across wide salt marshes to the sea. The coast itself is largely formed of sloping beaches of fine sand between low bluffs or partly eroded drumlins, though at Cohasset and Scituate granite headlands, reefs, and tiny islets are found, similar to those of the North Shore of Massachusetts Bay, while the Manomet Hills in Plymouth are remains of a terminal moraine where it meets the sea.

While, as in all formerly glaciated regions, many ponds are scattered throughout the region (Plymouth claims 365 within its town boundaries), the larger ponds are in two groups, the "Indian Ponds" of Pembroke-Hanson-Halifax, and the Lakeville ponds and reservoirs. There are many brooks draining the region, but few streams of even canoeable size, the Neponset flowing north into Boston Harbor, the Taunton southwest into Narragansett Bay, and the even smaller Indian Head-North River flowing easterly from Hanover between Marshfield and Scituate. The woodlands are all second-growth, mostly mixed hardwoods with a few remaining stands of white pine; many neglected pastures are now grown up with red cedar, sumac, and other "weeds"; a few white cedar swamps at intervals throughout the region form a quite different ecological area, though many of the formerly excellent bird localities have been converted into cranberry bogs, to the detriment of the bird population but to the great profit of their owners.

ABBREVIATIONS: S — summer resident; W — winter resident; M — migrant.

1. BOSTON. a. *Audubon House, 155 Newbury Street*: headquarters for information, bird books, pictures, binoculars, bird supplies of all sorts, starting point for Audubon Field Trips; call KENmore 6-4895 for information on any phase of bird-watching. b. *Public Garden*: an interesting migration "pocket" in spring and fall; a total of about 150 species have been recorded, mostly small land birds, including some real "rarities." c. *The Fish Piers, T Wharf and Commonwealth Pier*: Herring Gull SW; Black-backed Gull, Glaucous Gull, Iceland Gull W. d. *Charles River Basin, or Back Bay*: a resting place for great numbers of gulls in season; American Merganser winters in open water below dam, where courtship antics may be watched in spring. e. *Leverett Pond, Muddy River*: migrating and wintering ducks; Wood Duck, Hooded Merganser, American Merganser, Pied-billed Grebe, occasionally Redhead, both Teal, etc.

2. QUINCY. a. *Wollaston Bay from Beach Drive*: gulls SW; waterfowl MW; shore birds M; Greater Scaup MW; Buffle-head MW; Laughing Gull MS; Bonaparte's Gull M. b. *Squantum—Moon Island*: Sea ducks MW; shore birds M; gulls SW; Glaucous and Iceland gulls W; Snowy, Short-eared, and Long-eared owls W; small land birds M.

3. HINGHAM. *Harbor and Islands*: waterfowl, shore birds, herons, gulls; Ring-billed Gull MW; Bonaparte's Gull M; Laughing Gull MS; Greater Scaup MW.

4. HULL. a. *Allerton Hill to Hull Gut*: gulls SW; sea ducks MW; shore birds M; alcids, grebes, loons, MW; cormorants SW. b. *The Brewsters, rocky islets across channel from Allerton Hill*: breeding colony Double-crested Cormorant; wintering place European Cormorant; both species in migration; gulls SW; scoters and other sea ducks and water birds in winter and as migrants.

5. COHASSET. a. *Whitney Woods Reservation (Trustees of Public Reservations), mixed woods, small swampy areas, trails*: warblers, vireos, thrushes, etc. MS; White-eyed Vireo, Hermit Thrush SM. b. *Little Harbor—Jerusalem Road, granite headlands and pebble beaches, tidal flats, thickets*: gulls SW; water birds MW; shore birds M; Robin, Bluebird, Myrtle Warbler wintering.

6. SCITUATE. a. *The Glades—Minot, granite headlands, beaches, islets, salt marsh, cedars, cat brier thickets*: gulls SW; terns SM; sea ducks and water birds MW; shore birds M; small land birds SM; American Eider W; Purple Sandpiper W, on islets; Snowy Owl, Snow Bunting, Myrtle Warbler W. b. *Musquashiat Pond, brackish pond (very shallow), barrier beach, fields, golf links*: terns S; shore birds M; waders SM; pond ducks M; Killdeer S. c. *Scituate Harbor, breakwaters, tidal flats, salt marsh*: gulls SW; shore birds M. d. *Third Cliff—North River, low bluff with good view seaward, salt marsh, beaches, tide rips*: all usual water birds, many shore birds.

7. SCITUATE—MARSHFIELD. *North River, wide salt marshes becoming brackish upstream*: shore birds, waders, pond and sea ducks; Yellow-crowned Night Heron S; egrets, etc. S; rails, Red-wing, Long-billed Marsh Wren S.

8. MARSHFIELD. a. *Fourth Cliff—Humarock Beach—Rexhame, beaches, dunes, drumlin, salt marsh*: water birds, shore birds, waders, especially in migration; Short-eared and Snowy owls W; Ipswich Sparrow MW; sharp-tailed sparrows M; marsh birds SM. b. *South River, brackish marshes*: rails SM; Marsh Hawk. c. *Brant Rock—Green Harbor, granite headland between sand beaches near extensive salt marshes*: shore birds, waterfowl M; wintering sea ducks and other water birds.

9. DUXBURY. *Beach and Bay, narrow sand spit, cedar "islands," tidal flats*: ducks, geese, shore birds, waders, in season; Ipswich Sparrow MW; rookery of Black-crowned Night Herons at The Gurnet.

10. PEMBROKE—HANSON—HALIFAX. *The Indian Ponds*: once resting place for many waterfowl, now largely surrounded by cottages, but worth a visit in migration time.

11. WHITMAN—HANSON. a. *Whitman Meadows, Hobart's Pond*: rails, Least Bittern, marsh wrens nesting. b. *Great Cedar Swamp*: herons, egrets, pond and river ducks SM; Wood Duck S; shore birds, swallows, hawks, in migration.

12. PLYMOUTH. a. *Plymouth Beach and Harbor, sand spit, tidal flats*: Common, Roseate, and a few Arctic Terns nesting near end of spit; Herring Gull, Least Tern, and Piping Plover also nesting; shore birds M; water birds, many ducks W. b. *Manter's Point—Eel River, beach, cattail swamp*: Cliff Swallow nesting; good view of ocean. c. *Manomet Point, headland and cliffs*: alcids, loons, grebes, sea ducks, gulls; Harlequin Duck W; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher late August—early September. d. *White Island Pond*: Bald Eagle in summer but no nests reported.

13. CARVER. Small colonies of Purple Martin at Carver and South Carver (see Lakeville).

14. LAKEVILLE. a. *Assawompsett, Quittacas, and other ponds and reservoirs*: many pond ducks in migration; Coot, Pied-billed Grebe, Ring-necked Duck M. b. *Rock Village*: small colony of Purple Martin (see Carver).

15. BOURNE. *Cape Cod Canal*: good observation points to watch gulls, etc.

16. BUZZARDS BAY. a. *Open Bay*: gulls, terns, etc. S; gulls, water birds, sea ducks wintering. b. *Marion*: Canada Geese wintering, feeding on lawns around cottages.

17. FALMOUTH. *Beaches, salt marshes, fine lateral moraine*: gulls, terns, water birds, shore birds; marine biological station at Woods Hole.

18. GOSNOLD. *Penikese Island*: gulls SW; terns S; shore birds M; Leach's Petrel S.

19. WESTPORT. *Horseneck Beach, Westport Point, sandy beaches, low woods, salt marsh*: shore birds, waders, water birds; Seaside Sparrow S; Rough-winged Swallow S.

20. TAUNTON RIVER REGION. a. *Swansea*: Osprey nests (more common in Bristol and Warren, R. I., just across line). b. *Lower Taunton River*: gulls, ducks, shore birds; American Merganser in spring, courting. c. *North Watuppa Pond*: shore birds, waders, etc. M.

21. NORTON. *Norton Reservoir*: shore birds, waders M; pond ducks M; Wood and Black Ducks breeding.

22. SHARON. *Moose Hill Sanctuary of Massachusetts Audubon Society*: Ruffed Grouse SW; Mourning Dove SW; many small land birds SW; demonstration of methods for attracting and conserving wildlife.

23. NORWOOD—CANTON—MILTON—DEDHAM. *Neponset River Meadows*.

24. MILTON—QUINCY. *Blue Hills Reservation of Metropolitan District, mixed woodlands, small ponds, ledges, trails*: woodland birds SW; Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers, possible hybrids (Unquity Road) S.

25. BRAINTREE. *Great Pond*: pond ducks, herons, etc. in season.

Personnel Changes In Audubon Staff



A young lady who appears to have all the qualifications for our Sales and Service Department has been found in Miss Eleanor P. Carleton, of Danvers. After graduation from Colby Junior College, Miss Carleton entered the business world and made an excellent record in charge of the Repair Department of Daniel Low and Company, Silversmiths and Jewelers, Salem, Massachusetts, and later as Assistant Placement Director at the New England States Teacher's Agency in Boston. Her interests are many and varied with special emphasis on the fine arts, and with a keen appreciation of natural beauty wherever found.

Also a valued addition to the Audubon staff is Davis Crompton, of Worcester, Field Research Agent for the Society, checking on the bird life at our sanctuaries and in various parts of the State. Mr. Crompton's interest in birds dates from the day when, as a pupil in the eighth grade of the Bancroft School in Worcester, a scarlet tanager caught his eye. Trips to various parts of the United States, to Europe, and to the West Indies in later life intensified this interest, which extends from the perching birds to all species. To questions proposed by other Audubon staff members as to names or locations of birds in other parts of the world, Davis usually has a ready answer.



Educated at Harvard College, Rollins College in Florida, and Clark University in Worcester, Mr. Crompton completed his studies at Northeastern University Law School, where he received the degree of Bachelor of Laws. His interests, however, lie in the out-of-doors and in Audubon field work.

Mr. Crompton has what is often called the itching foot with relation to bird work, because his travels have taken him to Canada half a dozen times, to Europe three times, and in this country he has crossed the Mason and Dixon line thirty times and the Mississippi River sixteen times. One of his most recent trips was to Arkansas, to check on possible ivory-billed woodpeckers, and a trip to Cuba with Mr. John Dennis in 1943 resulted in their finding and photographing the rare Cuban ivory-bills.

My Hobby, The Birds

BY ADDIE N. SIMONDS

As a hobby, bird study has few rivals. It can be carried on wherever there are birds, which means in the parks of big cities, in small towns, and in the country. There is not a day in the year when at least some birds cannot be found. It is a hobby which may be shared with others and which will last as long as life. To a lover of nature it seems there is no time or place that the presence of birds does not add to one's happiness. The sight of a bird or the sound of its voice is such a source of unfailing pleasure that I count each day memorable that brings me a new bird friend. Our chickadee has become the symbol of friendliness, our robin of cheerfulness, and our bluebird of happiness, and it will pay us to learn that the happiness which comes with the bluebird in the spring may be made to last through the rest of the year by our association with other birds in their season.

What an air of cheerfulness a flock of juncos or a brave band of friendly chickadees gives to a winter landscape! How much of spring there is on the back of a bluebird, that fluttering fragment dropped from the blue vault of heaven! No woods are dreary when blue jays are calling, and no field but is full of joy if the bobolinks are sprinkling it with their songs. In the cool daybreak of a summer morning, the wonders of the coming sunrise are heralded by the voices of birds rising in chorus from the dawn-lighted woods. The loneliness of the marsh at noonday vanishes as a stately heron flaps slowly across the water. In the afternoon, among the flower beds the soft purr of a hummingbird's wings causes us to smile as we realize that we are not alone in the garden. In the dusk of evening, the call of the whip-poor-will adds mystery to the gathering shadows of the roadside.

Birds, like all other good neighbors, need to be encouraged. There are so many gardens in these days from which to pick and choose that they may pass us by unless we show active signs of desiring their company. And, you know, a bird in *your* garden is worth two in your neighbor's.

We may have a garden of birds in winter as well as a garden of flowers in summer. Perhaps you have heard of the small boy who wrote a composition on "A Bird Sanctuary." He said, "You tie some suet to a tree, put out a dish of water, and scare the cat away; that is a Bird Sanctuary." Let us each take that to heart, tie some suet to a tree, put out a dish of water, and scare the cat away, so that we may indeed have "a bird sanctuary" in our garden.

My own feeding shelf is in front of my kitchen window, and here in the spring I have watched the goldfinch change from the winter plumage of olive green, with black and white wings and tail, to the beautiful yellow that suggests the name of "wild canary." Here I have watched the nuptial dance and mating of the male purple finch as it struts before the female, then, raising its crest and spreading and fluttering its wings, dances back and forth in front of its prospective mate. John Burroughs said of the male purple finch, "it appears as if a brown bird had been dipped in diluted poke-berry juice and that two or three more dippings would have made the purple complete." When the sun shines upon him he looks as if he were dressed in raspberry satin.

Here by my window shelf the little chickadee will hop onto my hand and eat the chopped nuts which I hold. No wonder our little "blackcap" won the official election as the State Bird of Massachusetts, for it deserves all the praise and popularity it receives. And there is convincing proof that the chickadee is one of our most valuable birds, as well as one of the most friendly.

To the nature student, birds are a living calendar, but it is a question which one is the best harbinger of spring. It may be the song sparrow, for of all the sparrows this musician of exceptional ability is most generally associated with early pussy willows and scarlet maples. "The magic of his voice charmed me in the early months of Spring, while other songsters still were in the Southland lingering, and now, again when other birds have fled from winter's chill, I hear his modest little chant, his cheery tuneful trill." It may well have been a song sparrow of which Oliver Herford wrote:

"I heard a bird sing in the dark of December,

A magical thing and sweet to remember;

We are nearer to Spring than we were in September;

I heard a bird sing in the dark of December."

But, to me, the bluebird brings the message, "Spring is here!" Who does not welcome the bluebird and all that its coming implies? Snow may still lie in patches or drift in flurries, but when the bluebird comes we know that spring is near. Some day in early March, while the promise of spring is still doubtful, there is sure to come, perhaps just for a moment, a golden sun and vivid blue sky, and down out of that sky drops bits of its own ethereal color, warbling softly—and the bluebirds are back again! Then we know that all's well with the world, for God has thrown Heaven open wide and let the bluebirds out!

There is no foretelling what a day or an hour may bring forth in the bird world, or what thrills may be in store for those who take up the sport of feeding and studying the birds. And if you persist in your interest, birds will become a hobby with you. And what more delightful hobby could you have?

Hérons and Shore Birds in Northern Bristol County in 1949

BY F. SEYMOUR HERSEY

On August 11 word was received that white herons had been seen at Norton Reservoir the previous day. On the morning of the 12th I searched the shore of the pond but did not find them. At five o'clock that afternoon I returned and quickly located an American egret and soon afterwards two more. Later the first bird flew and joined the other two. I now made it a practice to visit the pond every few days, both early in the morning, i. e., six to eight o'clock (D.S.T.), and after four o'clock in the afternoon. My record of the egrets seen is as follows:

August	12	3	September	12	24
"	14	5	"	16	28
"	18	5 in A. M.	"	19	present far out on pond, not counted
"		17 in P. M.	"	21	31
"	22	none	"	27	11
"	23	12	October	3	none, and none thereafter
"	24	none			
September	6	8			
"	10	18			

From the above it is apparent that the birds moved about considerably. Where they went on the days when they were absent from the Reservoir is a mystery. On August 14 I drove to practically every pond, large or small, in all the surrounding towns, but with the exception of a single egret at the north end of Sabbatia Lake, in Taunton, I did not find any white herons. Many times afterwards I visited these ponds but found no birds.

Their preference for the Reservoir is readily understood. Norton Reservoir, although a large sheet of water, is quite shallow. By August 1, I estimated the water level had dropped at least six feet. The summer drought was noticeably more severe in the towns of Mansfield, Norton, and Easton than in the rest of Bristol County, for several brief, but heavy, local showers that brought slight relief to various parts of the County at different times entirely missed these three towns. By the end of the first week in August the water in the Reservoir had dropped another two feet, and now at the northern end of the pond (the Mansfield end) a muddy shore line, 100 to 200 feet wide, was beginning to appear. It was here the egrets first were found. They did not feed on the exposed mud but in the shallow water just beyond.

By early September, the water level had dropped so far that the whole northern arm of the pond was dry, and now mud banks and flats were appearing everywhere in the middle of the pond, until finally there probably was not much more than a foot of water in a large part of the Reservoir. After early September the birds left the northern end of the pond and frequented the ever-increasing mud flats out in the middle part of the Reservoir.

All the other large ponds in this vicinity are much deeper and, although the level of the water dropped as much, no extensive shore line was exposed to provide feeding places for these birds.

No other species of white heron was seen at any time. Other herons occurred, however. Green herons were common throughout August; I found from five to eight on every visit, but none after the end of the month. Black-crowned night herons, in varying numbers, were seen well into October. A single bittern was present on August 14 and one on the 23rd. A great blue heron appeared on September 10, the same, or another, was seen September 19, and two birds on November 15.

Norton Reservoir also was visited by an interesting assemblage of shore birds. On August 12, on the recently exposed muddy shore line at the northern end, I found about twenty-five least sandpipers and two killdeers. On the 14th, five or six semipalmated sandpipers had joined them and one killdeer had left. On the 18th the semis had increased somewhat and a spotted sandpiper was found. On the 23rd the least sandpipers had increased to one hundred or more, the semis and single killdeer were still present, and two greater yellow-legs, five or six lesser yellow-legs, two solitary sandpipers, and a dozen or more ring-necks had arrived. Early the next morning all had left except two lesser yellow-legs and eight or ten least sandpipers.

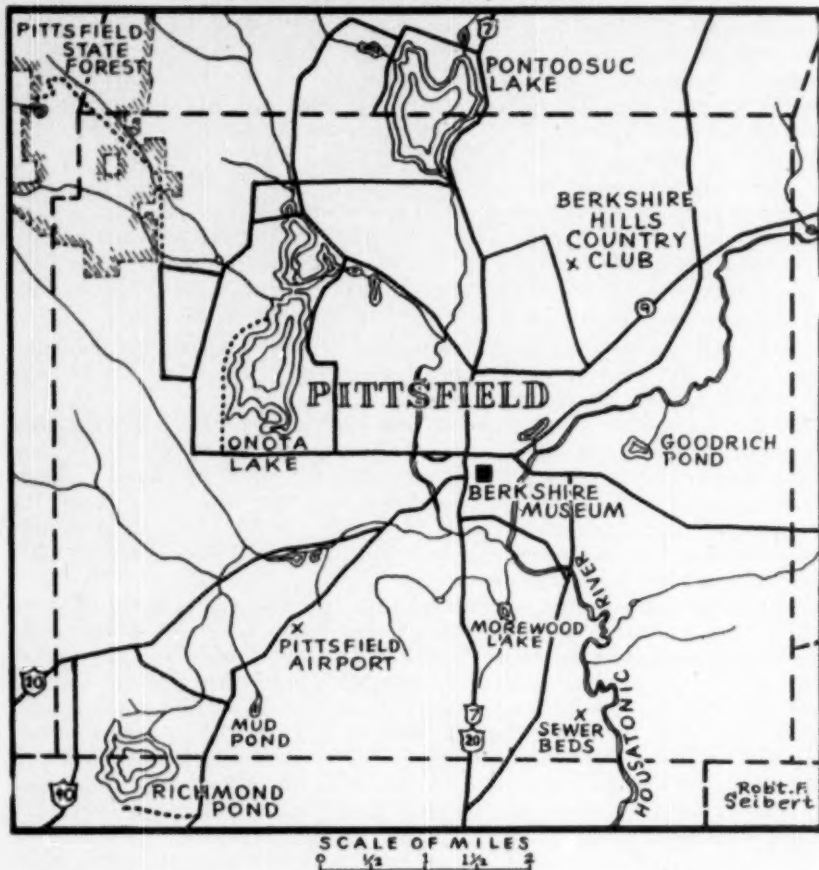
After August 24 more semis arrived until there were one hundred or more, but the least sandpipers disappeared. One or two ring-necks appeared for a day or two and then left. On the 25th another spotted sandpiper arrived and two dowitchers. After this the shore bird population settled down to semis and greater and lesser yellow-legs. The lesser yellow-legs remained in numbers up to a half dozen until September 16; the last, a single bird, was seen on the 27th. Greater yellow-legs, in two's and three's, were seen on September 16, 27, October 3, 14, and finally, on the 26th, a flock of thirty-one. By the end of October all the shore birds had left, but on November 15 I again found three small flocks that totaled together eighty-four red-backed sandpipers, seven killdeers, and five greater yellow-legs.

At the time these notes are being written—the end of November—the water in the Reservoir has not risen more than a few inches, for we have not, as yet, had any heavy rains. If it freezes for the winter at its present low level, much of the aquatic vegetation that has made this a good duck pond may be winterkilled.

Berkshire Birds

BY BARTLETT HENDRICKS

(Concluded from January Bulletin)



PINE GROSBEEK

Winter Visitor C

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

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In a good winter, flocks of from several up to 50 pine grosbeaks are seen, not only in the country, but also in cities and towns, where their tameness attracts immediate attention. These northern birds have a fondness for orchards where rotten apples remain on the branches.

COMMON REDPOLL

Winter Visitor B

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

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Some winters redpolls are so well distributed that it is next to impossible to walk an appreciable distance in the country without at least hearing a flock; other seasons the erratic birds may be hard to find. An average flock contains around 45 birds. Redpolls are often seen in birches—white, gray, and black.

Note: An immature hoary redpoll was identified by Miss Snyder in Pittsfield, Dec. 14, 1943, and Clarke saw one, probably the same individual, Dec. 20. Until there are further records it would seem wise to keep this species on the hypothetical list.

GREATER REDPOLL**Winter Visitor D**

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

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This rare, larger, darker subspecies has been reported three times in March, but of course it should be looked for at any time that common redpolls are present.

PINE SISKIN**Winter Visitor A**

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

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Like the redpoll, siskins are generally scarce in the fall until Dec., but in 1946 flocks of 40 and more were found daily from early autumn. Some years good numbers are present in April, with a few lingering into May and even June. Siskins have been found on upper Greylock in June and July, but as yet there have been no breeding records.

GOLDFINCH**Permanent Resident A**

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

Goldfinches are common and widely distributed breeding birds. Flocks of over 100 are often seen in spring and fall. In winter they are often scarce, but a flock of nearly 200 has been seen in Dec. Goldfinches are found in open country growing up to weeds, and in birch groves.

RED CROSSBILL**Winter Visitor D**

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

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Strangely, both crossbills are rarer and more erratic in the cold Berkshires than in the coastal regions of Massachusetts. In 1895 Faxon & Hoffmann called this species "abundant throughout the summer about Greylock," but there have been only scattered recent county records at any season. Miss Snyder and Mason found up to 7 on the mountain in June-July in both 1944 and 1945, while Varney identified small flocks in Great Barrington in Mar., April, and Nov., 1941. Largest recent flock, 25, was observed by Mrs. Derby, in West Becket, Mar. 1942.

Note: The Newfoundland red crossbill should occur occasionally, but it has not been reported as yet. This subspecies is larger and darker and has a bigger bill. The stubby Sitka crossbill likewise can be expected casually, sooner or later.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL**Winter Visitor C**

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

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The white-wing, while slightly less rare, has as surprising habits as its relative. Faxon & Hoffmann said the bird was abundant in northern Berkshire in the winter of 1899-1900, but there has been no such recent influx. There have been scattered winter dates from the valley in most years of the last decade, with 35 being the maximum number. One was found on Greylock in July-Aug. 1946, and Bailey identified one in Sheffield, Aug. 30, 1947.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW**Summer Resident A**

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC
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An abundant migrant in late April, and from late Sept. thru Oct., the white-throat likes forest openings, hedgerows, and bushy tangles. It is a common summer resident in the spruce region, to the summit of Greylock, and a few may be found summering in cool hemlock swamps in the valley. Varney found two in Great Barrington, Dec. 28, 1947, while Miss Snyder saw a pair in Pittsfield for a week, starting Mar. 16, 1945.

FOX SPARROW**Migrant A**

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC
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Fox sparrows like to rummage around among the leaves on the forest floor, but in severe weather they often come to feeding stations. An average flock numbers from 4 to about a dozen. One came daily to several Pittsfield feeders, from Jan. 12 thru Feb., 1941.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW**Migrant B**

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC
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This sparrow, a rare spring but more common fall migrant, is found along wet meadows and the edges of swamps, and also in dry weed-patches. It is unusual for an observer to see more than one or two in a spring, but careful searching will reveal 10 or more in the autumn. Ten Lincoln's were found by Cartwright near Hill 51 in Savoy July 20, 1920, while on June 24, 1934, C. R. Cross saw four. There have been no recent suggestions of breeding. Immature swamp sparrows are continually "identified" as this northern species.

SWAMP SPARROW**Summer Resident A**

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC
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Swamp sparrows breed about most swamps and thickets near water, but they become increasingly uncommon at higher altitudes. In migration they often appear with other sparrows some distance from water.

SONG SPARROW**Summer Resident A**

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC
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Song sparrows, among our most abundant valley birds, come close to being permanent residents. There are numerous winter records from both ends of the county and a few from the Pittsfield area. Except for deep woods, song sparrows are found almost everywhere within reasonable distance of water and shelter.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR**Casual E**

Only two records: one seen feeding on seeds near the center of Pittsfield by Clarke, Feb. 10, 1920; one watched for a long time by Miss Snyder, Mar. 20, 1947, with horned larks at the Berkshire Hills Country Club, Pittsfield.

SNOW BUNTING**Winter Visitor A**

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC
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Although winter birds, buntings are seen with greatest regularity the last week in Oct. and early Nov. Many flocks are small, but groups of 150 or 200 are not uncommon. They not only occur on meadows and plowed fields but also along rocky beaches and mud flats.

From One Generation To Another

Perhaps there is no finer tribute to any institution of learning than that paid by those families who entrust to that institution the sons and daughters of each succeeding generation. Likewise, continuous support of a cause by a family from one generation to another must reflect the worth of that cause. The Massachusetts Audubon Society is proud to include in its membership many sons and daughters of former Audubon supporters. An interesting example of this was brought to our attention recently by a valued member in Dedham, Massachusetts, Mrs. Albert R. Gilman, whose uncle, former Governor William W. Stickney, of Vermont, was a great bird fancier and Audubon supporter. Also, her grandfather, John Winslow Stickney, represented the town of Plymouth, Vermont, in the legislature back in 1851 and introduced and secured the passage of a bill which became the first law enacted in the State of Vermont for the protection of song birds. We are reminded of Henry Ward Beecher's admonition when he declared, "We should so live and labor in our time that what came to us as seed may go to the next generation as blossom, and that what came to us as blossom may go to them as fruit. This is what we mean by progress."

We welcome the following new members this month, and acknowledge gratefully the increased support by older members who have transferred to a higher class of membership.

Life Member

***Tilton, H. O., Worcester

Contributing Members

** Peterson, Miss Julia C., Brant Rock

Supporting Members

- * Alexander, Mrs. Donald C., Nahant
- * Campbell, Miss Fanny S., Lincoln
- * Carlton, Miss Helen C., Amesbury
- * Cox, Gardner, Cambridge
- * Esty, Mrs. Charles A., Framingham Ctre.
- * Foster, Miss Helen P., Beverly
- * Hayes, Mrs. Edwin A., New Haven, Conn.
- Howe, Henry S., Canton
- * Howe, Miss Lois Lilley, Cambridge
- Ketchum, Phillips, So. Natick
- * Lancaster, Mrs. Elizabeth W., Laconia, N. H.
- Pardee, M. E., Meredith, N. H.
- Payne, Robert Lee, Boston
- Persons, Charles A., II, Worcester
- * Richardson, Mrs. Charles O., Jr., Stow

Active Members

- Allen, John L., Jr., Providence, R. I.
- Anderson, Mrs. R. P., Coatesville, Pa.
- Bardwell, Miss Julia M., Brookline
- Bassett, Charles W. D., Concord
- Batchelder, Mrs. Philip, Rumford, R. I.
- Bickford, Miss Gladys C., Lynn
- Blaisdell, Mrs. J. Harper, Jr., Lexington
- Boyden, Miss Elizabeth, Deerfield

* Transferred from Active Membership

** Transferred from Supporting Membership

*** Transferred from Contributing Membership

Brayden, F. J., Maynard

Brooks, Mrs. B. T., Old Greenwich, Conn.

Bugbee, Harold, Winchester

Cabot, Mrs. Harold, Concord

Cady, Karl, Loma Linda, Calif.

Care, Mrs. John H. C., Erving

Carter, Miss Florence, Ashworth,

Washington, D. C.

Cartier, James, No. Reading

Chase, Theodore, Jr., Dover

Church, B. LeBaron, Taunton

Clark, Mrs. Clinton S., Franklin

Clarke, Fred C., Jamestown, R. I.

Coffey, Miss Elizabeth, Lowell

Collins, Edward T., Brookline

Conant, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley,

Littleton

Crane, Gabor A., New York, N. Y.

Creamer, Miss Hazel,

West Hartford, Conn.

Crowell, Miss Barbara L., Brookline

Cunningham, Mrs. Robert C., Milton

Dixon, Miss Barbara Joan, Swansea

Doige, Mrs. Joseph, Andover

Dunn, Edward W. Y., Needham

Ellsworth, Mrs. Helen M., Braintree

Ernest, Miss Helen, Cambridge

Feeley, Mrs. J. Henry, Franklin

Fogg, Mrs. Jennie, Peabody

Forsberg, John O., Worcester

Foss, James O., Boston

Foster, Mrs. Lawrence, Boston

Fox, Miss Nancy, West Stockbridge

Gabo, Mrs. N., Woodbury, Conn.

Gilmore, Miss Alma, Fall River

Gowing, Miss Grace, No. Reading

Gregory, Mr. and Mrs. J. B., Wayland
Hagar, James W., Kent, Conn.
Harris, Donald B., Belmont
Hayward, Mrs. Francis, Worcester
Heermann, F. M., Providence, R. I.
Heyworth, Mrs. Sophie M., Beverly
Higgins, Mrs. Harold W.,

Norfolk, Conn.

Hirshberg, Eliot P., Scarsdak, N. Y.
Hirst, Dr. Elizabeth, Melrose
Holbrook, Chester T., Newton Center
Holden, Ralph, Concord
Huntley, Miss Maude L.,

No. Middleboro

Jacobs, William M., Newton Center
Johnson, Mrs. Louis, Franklin
Johnson, Mrs. Wallace, Franklin
Kasle, Miss Josephine, Toledo, Ohio
Keyes, Mrs. George T., East Pepperell
Kingman, Mrs. Eugene A.,

Providence, R. I.

Klein, George D., New York, N. Y.
Lawson, Mrs. J. Herbert, Weston
LeCain, George E., Peabody
Lewis, Ernest G., Jamaica Plain
Lewis, Mrs. Henry S., Wakefield
Lunt, Mrs. Samuel W., Bedford
McGrillis, Miss Sally, Hanover, N. H.
McIntosh, Miss Lilius, Needham
McKendry, William S., Jr., Andover
MacWilliams, Mrs. George F., Concord
Meigs, Mrs. Grace, Middleton
Mitchell, Miss Catherine, Lowell
Mitchell, Mrs. Percy D., Worcester
Monahan, Mrs. Clifford P.,

Providence, R. I.

Nash, Mrs. Elizabeth A., Sharon
Newell, Miss Gertrude F.,

Shelburne Falls

Nimmo, Donald C., Groton

Noteware, Norman D.,

Carson City, Nev.

Osborne, Miss Jane, Sugar Hill, N. H.

Parks, Mrs. Albert E., Cambridge

Parmenter, Mr. and Mrs. John H.,

Natick

Passebois, Miss Herminie E., Melrose

Peirce, Miss Ethel M., Needham
Perry, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis, Boston
Peterson, Mrs. Alfred W., Woburn
Phelps, William E., Guyencourt, Del.
Pike, Mrs. Leon A., Pittsfield
Pirnie, Col. W. Bruce, Concord
Pottinger, Miss Ann, Cambridge
Pratt, Mrs. F. Wolsey, Concord
Prendergast, Graham L., Reading
Rader, Mrs. Harold, Worcester
Rice, Harold, Arlington
Robertson, William H., Jr., Lowell
Rodman, Mrs. Walter, Wickford, R. I.
Salisbury, Mrs. Ernest F.,

Providence, R. I.

Salmon, Mr. and Mrs. E. D., Amherst
Shaw, Mrs. C. A., Concord
Smith, Mrs. E. R., New Canaan, Conn.
Smith, Mrs. George, Fitchburg
Smith, Wilson, Reading
Souter, Mrs. Helen S., Kittery, Me.
Southgate, Mrs. Richard,

Beverly Farms

Sproul, Miss L. G., Lynn
Sproul, Robert, Belmont
Stillman, Miss Nadine, Dolliver, Iowa
Stone, David B., Worcester
Streeter, Miss Catherine B.,

Johnstown, N. Y.

Sturdy, Mrs. William, Chartley

Sullivan, Mrs. William J.,

No. Reading

Sutherland, Mrs. W. M., Boston

Swift, Miss Pauline E., Boston

Tapley, Herbert, Brooklyn,

Hancock Co., Me.

Thomas, C. Lloyd, Jr., Concord

Thomas, Walter F., Lowell

Thompson, Adin, Beverly

Tyrell, Frank, Danvers

Wade, Mrs. Jephtha H., Cambridge

Walker, Mrs. Frank P., Wrentham

Waller, Miss F. E., Gt. Barrington

Walton, Mrs. C. Russell, Cambridge

West, Worthing L., Jr., Newton Ctr.

White, Miss Edith L., Canton

Wiggin, Miss Alice, Franklin

Zanzig, Mrs. Augustus D., Brookline

News of Bird Clubs

February programs sponsored by the **Allen Bird Club** of Springfield include "This Curious World in Nature," on Wednesday, February 1, presented by Mr. William Ferguson, and "Bird Nests," on Monday, February 20, presented by Mr. H. Arthur Avery. The Club is scheduling a field trip to Arcadia Sanctuary and Amherst on Saturday afternoon, February 4, with Mr. J. Edward Hyde as trip leader.

The **South Shore Bird Club** held its Annual Meeting at the Quincy Public Library on Friday, January 13, on which occasion the film "Bear River Refuge" was enjoyed. On January 21 Mrs. Sibley Higginbotham conducted a field trip for the Club in the South Shore area, and the February trip, on the 12th, will be led by Mr. Joseph Ulman, Jr.

Just A Reminder!

Audubon Field Trips

The Audubon Field Trips furnish excellent opportunities for bird study, in a company of pleasantly congenial people and under competent and helpful leadership.

Not only are the places to be visited selected because they usually provide goodly numbers of birds of many different species, but our leaders are kept posted "up to the minute" regarding the occurrence of any rare or exceptionally interesting birds in the general locality, with the result that not only are good "day lists" found on these trips, but often birds of outstanding rarity may be seen.

So, whether you are old and experienced in bird study or a mere beginner in bird-watching, why not join the next Audubon Field Trip and see for yourself what a pleasant and profitable excursion it will be?

Sunday, February 19. Trip to the *South Shore of Massachusetts Bay* for winter land birds and water birds. Chartered bus will leave Audubon House, 155 Newbury Street, Boston, at 8:15 A. M., returning to Audubon House at 7:00 P. M. Those attending should bring lunch. Fare and guide fee, \$2.75. Fare for those using private cars and following bus, 75 cents. Reservations should be made a week in advance. Cancellations cannot be accepted after noon on Friday, February 17.

The trip will include a stop at Squantum, where snowy and long-eared owls and a solitary blue goose have been seen several times lately. Manomet Point in Plymouth will be the ultimate objective, with various stops en route at feeding stations and shore lookouts. The leaders will be Mr. and Mrs. Sibley Higginbotham and Dr. John B. May.

Watch the *Bulletin* for further schedules of bus trips during the year. Tentatively, the schedule will include a field trip to the Westport area on March 19; Sudbury Valley on April 23; the usual shore bird trip to Newburyport, which will include a stop for land birds at our Nahant Thicket Sanctuary, on May 28. June and July will be reserved for small party trips, there being no bus trips scheduled, but on August 20 we shall repeat the shore bird trip to Plum Island and Newburyport. On October 22 there will be a late fall trip scheduled, while November 19 will usher in the winter season. Leaders for the various trips will be announced later.

Audubon Volunteers Aid Program

A group of the Society's members who have been serving as Audubon Volunteers, under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Clara deWindt, have aided the Society greatly during the past year in the forwarding of literature to members and at various other tasks assigned them at Audubon House. Mrs. R. D. Horton, of Revere, is one of the most recent additions to the Audubon Volunteers. Harry Moore, of Barre, also is proving a valuable helper at Cook's Canyon, where he has been assisting in the work of thinning trees, as well as donating his services to keep the pond clear of snow so that the boys and girls of the neighborhood may have a good place to skate.

Coming Events at the Berkshire Museum

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

FEBRUARY

- Feb. 3 - 28. Exhibition: "A Half Century of Industrial Progress in Berkshire County."
 Feb. 3 - 28. Exhibition: Photographs.
 Feb. 1, 6:00 P.M. Annual Supper. Hoffmann Bird Club.
 Feb. 1, 8:15 P.M. Meeting: Workshop for World Understanding.
 Feb. 3, 4, 5, 6:30 and 8:30 P.M. Little Cinema presents "Scott of the Antarctic" in Technicolor . . . Sunday Matinee 3:00 P.M.
 Feb. 4, 10:30 A.M. and 2:30 P.M. Family Movies. And each Saturday thereafter.
 Feb. 9, 8:00 P.M. Annual Winter Members' Night.
 Feb. 10, 11, 12, 6:30 and 8:30 P.M. Little Cinema. Sunday Matinee 3:00 P.M.
 Feb. 16, 17, 18, 8:15 P.M. Pittsfield Town Players.
 Feb. 22, 8:15 P.M. Meeting: Workshop for World Understanding.
 Feb. 24, 26, 27, 6:30 and 8:30 P.M. Little Cinema. Sunday Matinee 3:00 P.M.

For the third season **The Berkshire Museum** will sponsor Family Movies. As in the past, these popular 75 to 90 minute programs will consist of a wide variety of films on travel, nature, science, music, cartoons and other subjects. The Family Movies are **not** merely children's programs but are designed to interest people of all ages.

This year programs will be held every SATURDAY, at 10:30 and again at 2:30. (Occasionally there will be no matinee because of a Saturday matinee of the Little Cinema.) The Family Movies are run on the finest 16mm. projectors but the programs should not be confused with the Little Cinema's professional 35 mm. films. Admission: Children 9 cents, Adults 30 cents (tax inc.).

Brookline Bird Club Trips

Open to Members of the Massachusetts Audubon Society

- | | |
|---|---|
| February 4, all day. Newburyport and vicinity. Miss Barry, MEIrose 4-5888. | February 22, all day. Automobile trip to South Shore. Mr. Heston, REading 2-1965-M. |
| Afternoon, Nahant. Mr. Bagnulo, MYstic 8-3179. | February 25, all day. Ipswich. Mr. Jame-son, BEverly 1239-R. |
| February 11, all day. Rockport and Cape Ann. Miss Collins, COmmonwealth 6-5800. | Afternoon, Spy Pond. Miss McCarthy, WAtertown 4-9261. |
| Afternoon, Devereux and Marblehead Neck. Mrs. Searle, MArblehead 1322-W. | March 4, all day. Automobile trip to Westport. Mr. Little, WALtham 5-4295-J. |
| February 18, afternoon. Nahant. Miss Riggs, UNiversity 4-4229. | Afternoon, Belmont Hill. Miss Lawson, CApitol 7-5618. |

Additional Gifts To The Society

A veritable shower of useful gifts has come to Audubon House in recent months, some to be used there and others at the sanctuaries of the Society. Laurence B. Fletcher and Dr. Herbert Maynard have been most generous in contributing books from their libraries, including volumes of the *Auk* and some of Bent's *Life Histories of North American Birds*. An excellent collection of stuffed birds for use in educational work and for window displays was presented by Mrs. George R. Underwood, of Peabody, and transportation of the collection by Fraser and Walker was made possible through the generosity of Mrs. Clara deWindt. Additional equipment received at Cook's Canyon Sanctuary include a grand piano from Miss Alice Lincoln, of Barre; an antique bell from Mrs. William G. Vinal, of Amherst; a swivel desk holder for rubber stamps and stencils for sign-painting from J. Alfred Taylor, of Barre; and contributions of corn from Mr. Sherman Haight, of Barre, to keep the pheasants at the Sanctuary well fed during the winter.

New Books

I FLEW WITH THE BIRDS. By Harald Penrose. Country Life, Ltd., London, and Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. 1949. 206 pages. Illustrated with numerous photographs. \$6.00.

Harald Penrose is a test pilot of long experience as well as being an ornithologist, and in *I Flew with the Birds* he tells of many interesting observations of birds of England as he studies them in the air, which air, he comments, "belongs to the birds rather than to man."

Mr. Penrose justly observes that only a small portion of a bird's habits can be revealed from the ground, and he proceeds to solve many questions that have frequently been asked as to how fast and how high birds fly, how birds like the buzzard watch for their favorite food and prepare to stoop to secure it, or how others, like the gulls perhaps, fly simply for the joy of flying. He finds that the lapwing is one of the slowest of fliers, sometimes not making over ten miles an hour, while the swans are the most speedy, cruising along at around 55 miles an hour. He has found a lone swift at an altitude of 7500 feet, but the small perching birds do not fly high. However, he has seen white butterflies at 1000 feet, and insects hit the windshield at 8000 feet.

The author believes that birds have little fear of planes flying near them and cites experiences to prove his point. He notes also that, because of concentrating on the work at hand and on landmarks, few pilots, or the passengers with them, notice the interesting birds that they pass in flight.

"Cormorant Cruise"; "Massed Flight of Starlings"; "Star Flight of the Swifts"; these are among the two dozen very readable chapters which conclude with "Winter Flight" and "Air View of Widgeon."

Conditions influencing the performance of birds in the air are simply discussed, to help the reader better understand Mr. Penrose's observations.

It is interesting to learn from this keen observer that the broad-winged hawks known in England as buzzards are on the increase.

Air travel is becoming more and more common, so that this publication is most timely and should arouse considerable interest in the bird companions that one may see in flights for pleasure or business. C. RUSSELL MASON

THE AWL-BIRDS. By J. K. Stanford. The Devin-Adair Company. New York. 1949. 90 pages. \$2.00.

The return of the avocets to England as a breeding species after a lapse of more than a hundred years is commemorated in this interesting little fictional tale by J. K. Stanford, a young war veteran who was present at the finding of the first eggs. The book is founded on fact, and the black and white drawings by A. M. Hughes add immeasurably to the reader's pleasure.

The breeding site of the avocets has been kept a carefully guarded secret, and groups of volunteers have watched over eggs and fledglings, particularly to protect them from the "egger" whose frustrated effort to add to his egg collection provides the plot for the story.

As the book is read, one is reminded strongly of the theme of the popular English film "The Tawny Pipit," and it is certain that bird-watchers will enjoy the book as they did the film. Further recommendation lies in the fact that an introduction to *The Awl-Birds* is written by Helen Cruickshank. In her comments, she refers to the serious food shortages in England and pays tribute to the far-seeing English people who, although birds and their eggs might well be used for needed food, have determined to save the beauty of the avocets for future generations to enjoy. C. RUSSELL MASON

Field Notes

A PH. GEE at Cohasset on January 5 was reported by C. H. S. Merrill.

Robert Hill, of Cohasset, reported a DUCK HAWK on the Post Office Building, Boston, on January 5.

On December 3 Mrs. Walter Gropius saw two SNOWY OWLS flying over her house in South Lincoln in bright sunlight.

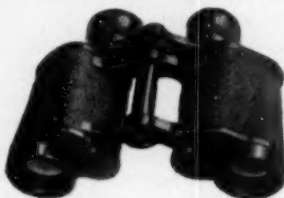
From Miss Frances Gillotti we have a report of a SHARP-SHIN at Whately on January 8. Miss Gillotti also writes: "I saw EVENING GROSBEAKS and several flocks of PINE GROSBEAKS in northern Vermont—the flocks of pine grosbeaks being on the snow-covered road along Route 5. I suppose they were picking up grit."

We quote an interesting note received from Aaron Moore Bagg, of Holyoke: "Yesterday, December 6, I visited Forest Park, Springfield, to see what might be present with the black ducks and scores of tame mallards. First, I was pleased to find a male GREEN-WINGED TEAL, almost certainly the same individual which has spent the past two winters at the Park. But then I discovered that a male SHOV-ELLER also was present, as well as a male PINTAIL. All these ducks were with the mallards, in an open stream, and not more than 20 feet from me."

Here is an unusual observation of a BLACK DUCK by Aaron Moore Bagg. We quote verbatim from his letter of December 28: "Today I saw something which may be old stuff, but was new to me. Walking along the bank of the Connecticut River here in Holyoke, I saw a Black Duck waddle across the shore and launch itself into the water. It swam out for perhaps 25 feet and then suddenly flopped itself over—or so it seemed—and under water. I have no exact idea of how long it stayed under water, but I do know that it had traveled at least 100 feet downstream by the time it reappeared. For a few seconds it lay half-submerged and 'stretched out' in the water like a dead duck, then dived again. It repeated the entire operation once more, by which time it had traveled quite a little way downstream from me, and I turned aside, leaving it alone. Obviously, it was a wounded bird, using as clever escape tactics as though it were reasoning. The point, though, is that the Black Duck can dive and travel quite a distance under water when it has to do so. I suppose this is something that gunners have seen many times. If so, just disregard this as material for Field Notes—or compress it into one sentence to the effect that the duck dived and swam 100 feet under water."

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Field Notes

For several days in December, Mrs. W. J. Cummings, of East Orleans, had an ARKANSAS KINGBIRD feeding on the blue berries of the ivy covering the chimney of the house, also on cedar berries and pokeberries. She collected some of the berries and hoped to keep the bird alive with them and other food during the winter. However, on December 26 the bird flew against the window apparently in pursuit of a fly which was on a plant just inside, then sat about seemingly dazed for a time and did not reappear after that day. Mrs. Cummings believes that the bird injured itself and perished. This is a very late record for the Arkansas Kingbird on the outer Cape.

While visiting her parents in Needham at Christmas, Mrs. Donald Kitchin (Phyllis Nute) saw a female TOWHEE.

A BLUE GOOSE was reported at Squantum, first seen by A. Donald West, of Wollaston, on December 22, and still present on January 14. The bird was seen by many observers between these dates.

A late RUDDY TURNSTONE was seen in Scituate on December 24 by A. Donald West and companions.

A WINTER WREN was observed in Milton on December 26 by members of the South Shore Bird Club.

A GADWALL was seen in Squantum near the airport by A. Donald West and party on December 22, and the bird remained for the rest of the month.

A male CARDINAL was reported from Woodbridge, Connecticut, on December 24. S. C. Ball, of the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale University, in reporting this item, credits Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Preston Cloud with the discovery. A cardinal was also reported at Franklin, Massachusetts, on December 9 by Mrs. Laura R. Strickland.

Mrs. Laura Hudson, of Carver, reports the presence of a YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT at her bird feeders, December 15-20. She writes, "It seemed as though there was a pair of them, although at no time did they come together to eat the suet and crumbs. The breast was so yellow it had orange tints—a fine specimen, but the mate was not as yellow."

A MOCKINGBIRD in Gardner was reported by Mrs. A. Coburn on December 14, after the bird had been present for three days. Last year Mrs. Coburn had a mockingbird from the last week in January to March 19.

Mrs. Creighton B. Stanwood, of Belmont, reported a HERMIT THRUSH in her garden on December 27. Another hermit

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thrush report came from Mrs. Robert Holt, of Lexington, on January 3.

Davis Crompton reports a COTTON-TAIL RABBIT at Arcadia Sanctuary, Northampton, on December 13, and a RED SQUIRREL at Cook's Canyon, Barre, on December 29.

Mrs. E. A. Dutton of Craftsbury Common, Vermont, writes us that she has found baked potato skins an acceptable article of food for her BLUE JAYS. The next time you are using baked potatoes on the table and fail to eat all the skins, try them on the bird feeder for the jays.

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